THE

British Plutarch;

OR,

BIOGRAPHICAL ENTERTAINER.

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The LIVES at large

Of the moſt EMINENT MEN,

Natives of Great Britain and Ireland:

From the Reign of HENRY VIII. to GEORGE II.

Both inclusive:

Whether diſtinguiſhed as

Stateſmen, | Warriors, | Poets, ...

Patriots, ... | Divines, ... | Philoſophers.

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Aveline

Earl of Stair.

THE BRITISH PLUTARCH.

THE LIFE OF JOHN DALRYMPLE.

JOHN DALRYMPLE, earl of Stair, the eldeſt ſon of John, viſcount, afterwards earl, of Stair, by the lady Elizabeth Dundaſs, daughter to Sir John Dundaſs of Newliſton, was born upon the twentieth of July, 1673; and, even while an infant, diſcovered ſuch charms as prognoſticated his future greatneſs. He muſtered up a regiment of young boys of his own age, denominating them after his own name; and it was ſurpriſing to obſerve, in how ſhort a time they were enabled to go through the ſeveral evolutions of the military exerciſe, while their alacrity,

crity, when under the eye of their great commander, gave a ſure prelude of that ſuperior greatneſs of ſoul which afterwards appeared in him, and procured him both the confidence of his king and admiration of his country. Like another Cyrus, he diſcouraged every thing that was daſtardly and unbecoming in the young gentlemen of his own age; and, with the utmoſt addreſs, encouraged what was manly, becoming, and virtuous in them.

Scarce was he arrived at the age of ten years, when he made the moſt ſurpriſing progreſs in the Greek and Latin tongues; and, being well acquainted with theſe, the French became eaſy to him. He was trained up by a governor for ſome years, and then put to the college of Edinburgh under a guardian, where he had run through the whole courſe of his ſtudies in that ſeminary at the fourteenth year of his age; and was deſigned by his father for the law; but, his genius being turned for the ſword, he applied himſelf that way.

He left the college of Edinburgh in the year 1688, and went over to Holland; where he paſſed through the ſeveral degrees of preferment under the eye of that diſtinguiſhed and auguſt commander king William III. then prince of Orange, who ſhewed him great reſpect in the ſight of his officers, and treated him with the tenderneſs of an affectionate father.

It was here that this noble lord learned fortification and gunnery, which he afterwards ſo well

well improved, under the eye of the famous Cochorn; and laid the foundation of that free and diſintereſted ſpirit which he breathed in every air, and practiſed in every clime, for the ſervice of his country; and it was here that he learned ſeveral of the languages of Europe; ſuch as, French, Spaniſh, German, Italian, and Dutch; every one of which he ſpoke in ſuch purity, that one could not diſtinguiſh his dialect from that of a native of each country; and would have been tempted to think, he was born in the metropolis, which generally excells any other places of the kingdom wherein it ſtands, as much in the elegance of accent, as in the politeneſs of behaviour and faſhion of their habit and dreſs.

At the time of the late glorious revolution, he came over to Scotland, and in ſo particular a manner laid down the hardſhips of the Proteſtants, as to draw compaſſion from all who heard him; and, by a juſt repreſentation of the deſign of the houſe of Bourbon, which at that time he could ſo ſhrewdly gueſs at, confirmed thoſe who were already engaged for the prince of Orange in the good opinion they had formed of his cauſe, and prevailed upon others to embark in the ſcheme. In a word, he did the moſt ſubſtantial ſervices; for, being with his father and grandfather at the convention of the ſtates, he ſeconded their arguments with the moſt nervous reaſoning; and, like another Guſtavus, moved the paſſions of the audience, who were charmed to ſee ſuch a noble tender-

neſs and unaffected ſympathy in a young man, whoſe geſture and mein commanded admiration from all who heard him.

He was among the firſt to declare for king William: and, with joy to receive the deliverer of the nation, went up, with his father, to London, where he was joyfully received, and taken into his majeſty's ſervice, whom he attended to Ireland, continued with him, as one of his life-guards, during all his military excurſions in that kingdom; and acted the moſt heroic part at that time that poſſibly could have been expected from the moſt enterpriſing officer. He alſo accompanied his majeſty on his return to England, attended him while there, and ſet out with him at his majeſty's departure for Holland on the ſixth of January, 1691; but, as the winds proved contrary, the king was obliged to return to Kenſington, where he ſtayed for ſome few days, till the breaking of the froſt; when he went to Graveſend, and, with a convoy of men of war, ſtood to the coaſt of Holland; where, coming off the Goree, he left the yacht wherein he was, went off with three ſhallops, in company with the duke of Ormond, the lord-ſteward, and lord-high-chamberlain, the earls of Portland and Monmouth, and mynheers Overkirk and Zuleſkin: but, through the difficulties of the ice, that came down in ſhoals, and the foggineſs of the weather, they remained at ſea all night, but arrived at the Goree next morning.

Here

Here he took a ſmall refreſhment, and immediately again taking boat ſoon landed at Oramenhack, where he was met and complimented by the deputies of the ſtates, and then paſſed to the Hague, where the populace raiſed the moſt joyful acclamations, while he entered through the triumphal arches erected in honour of the wonders he had done.

Never was prince more regaled than king William III. and never were thoſe in the retinue of a king, among which Mr Dalrymple made a conſiderable figure, more careſſed than thoſe who attended the hero: nor were the ſtates-general ſingle in paying him their compliments; for ambaſſadors arrived from ſeveral courts in Germany, to congratulate him on his ſucceſs, and to enter into new engagements with him for ſupporting of the liberties of Europe; to which they were animated by the lively repreſentation made by his majeſty, of the critical juncture of affairs; and came into the reſolution of raiſing two hundred and twenty-two thouſand men againſt France; whereof twenty thouſand were to be raiſed from the national Britiſh forces.

As theſe regiments were to be raiſed, his majeſty conferred a colonel's commiſſion upon this his faithful ſervant; with which he ſerved under his great commander at the battle of Steenkirk, where the Engliſh bravery ſhone with the brighteſt luſtre; for, though they could not force a camp fortified with hedges, and lined by cannon advantageouſly poſted

upon eminences, yet they cut off the flower of the French troops, with five hundred officers, who lay dead on the ſpot.

But, among thoſe who engaged, none diſtinguiſhed himſelf more than Mr. Dalrymple; he ſeveral times rallied his regiment, when the ranks were broken by the devouring cannon, and brought them back to the charge; performed miracles of bravery with them, and was inſtrumental in ſaving many troops from being cut in pieces, as he ſtopped the purſuit till they had time to rally and renew the attack.

Though the Allies were unſucceſsful in Flanders, yet they carried all before them in the main. At La Hogue the French fleet was almoſt deſtroyed; and her trade, by means of ſeveral large captures taken from her, in a manner wholly ruined. At Landen there was a ſecond battle; and, though it be true, that the king of England was obliged to yield the field to numbers, yet he had more glory than even if victory had crowned his ſtandards. The misfortune of Landen, indeed, happened through the fault of a ſtrange officer; but, could it be more gloriouſly, and more advantageouſly repaired, than by that admirable preſence of mind, with which King William ſaved the reſt of the army? In time of trouble, into which ſuch diſorders throw an ordinary general, people uſually look upon the bringing the ſhattered remains of the routed army, who were ſaved in the fight, toward the frontiers of

of their own country, as an uncommon ſtroke of prudence; but this illuſtrious hero, whoſe views were always more extended, and more juſt than thoſe of other men, made them rendezvous upon the borders of the enemy; favoured the retreat of his forces, fighting as he gave back more like a conqueror than like one that was vanquiſhed; obliging, by this march and reſolution, ſeveral princes of Germany to join their troops to his own; and commanded, ſome time after, at the famous ſiege of Namur; where fortune ſeconded ſo well his efforts for gaining the place, in ſight of the whole French army, commanded by one of the moſt experienced officers of the time, that ſhe deſerved to be pardoned for the injuſtice of having abandoned him at the commencement of the campaign; and, as by her frowns ſhe protracted the war, ſo by this one ſmile ſhe ended it, to the honour and ſatisfaction of the Allies; and brought on the peace of Ryſwick in 1695.

Short lived; however, was this repoſe after ſo long and terrible a commotion; for the flame of war was not extinguiſhed, but only covered by ſome political aſhes, that were thrown upon the heart of the grand monarch, who waited for a plauſible pretext of ſetting fire to the coals, which ſeemed to be wholly quenched.

Charles II. who was then king of Spain, being in a very bad ſtate of health, and having no male iſſue of his own body, was in

great perplexity about ſettling the ſucceſſion to his hereditary dominions. On the one hand, he preferred the intereſt of his own family to that of the houſe of Bourbon, from whom both he and his anceſtors had received ſo many injuries; and was ſtrongly ſolicited by his queen, who was ſiſter to the empreſs, and by the miniſters of the emperor, to diſpoſe of his dominions in favour of the arch-duke Charles, his ſecond ſon. On the other hand, the partiſans of France, who were about his catholic majeſty, were artfully inſinuating to him, the expediency and advantage that would accrue to Spain in particular, and to the catholic religion in general, ſhould the former be ſettled under the protection of the moſt Chriſtian king.

The renunciations of his aunt and ſiſter, the one mother, the other wife, to Lewis XIV. were demonſtrated by them to be null by the laws of Spain; and, conſequently, that the article of giving up all pretenſions to the Spaniſh ſucceſſion, in the partition-treaty, was, ipſo facto, void to all intents and purpoſes; for, that no forms whatever were ſufficient to alter the nature of things.

Theſe arguments would have had but little force, if one more cogent had not been advanced; viz. That, as this point was dubious, there was fear of ſtirring up the greateſt powers againſt one another; and, that this might be the inſtrument of much bloodſhed: "For which," added theſe crafty ſtateſmen,

"you

" you will be anſwerable at a higher tribunal, whether your guilt be contracted by delaying to ſet your houſe in order, or by a raſh and unjuſt diſpoſal of your dominions."

Theſe arguments much diſtracted the mind of the king, who had recourſe to the uſual way of thoſe of the Romiſh communion; viz. to aſk the pope's advice in this perplexed and intricate matter. The holy father, and his conclave of cardinals, determined in favour of France; and the miniſters of that court at Madrid, did all in their power to bring to perfection the darling project, of putting Spain, and the Indies, into the hands of their monarch: and, ſo artfully did they contrive the buſineſs as, by large promiſes and well-placed ſums, to gain over the principal favourites at court: ſome do not even ſcruple to ſay, that, when the will was preſented to the Spaniſh monarch to be ſigned, in favour of the arch-duke Charles, a younger branch of the houſe of Auſtria, juſt when he was about to take the pen in his hand, ſome chicane or other was made uſe of to cauſe him to turn about; which while he did, another was inſtantly ſubſtituted in its place, and ſubſcribed by him.

The Spaniſh monarch ſurvived this laſt deed but a ſhort time, for he died in about a fortnight after, on the firſt of November, 1700; and ſcarce was he dead when a letter was written by the regency, at the head of which was the artful cardinal Portocarre, in-

timating this ſettlement of ſucceſſion to his moſt Chriſtian majeſty, who told the Spaniſh ambaſſador, the marquis de Caſtel dos Rios, that he was very ſorry for the loſs which Europe in general, and Spain in particular, had ſuſtained by the loſs of ſo great a king; and, though he had all poſſible intentions to gratify the wiſhes of the Spaniſh nation, in ſending the duke of Anjou among them as their ſovereign, according to their ardent deſire, for which he heartily thanked them; yet the ticklish ſtate of affairs of Europe, at that time, would not admit of making too haſty a ſtep in ſo important an affair; but that, on every occaſion, he was ready to promote the intereſt and glory of the Spaniſh nation.

The queſtion, that had long been debated, Whether it was neceſſary to enter into war with France? was no longer doubtful: the thing was reſolved on; and, in that ſame month, a grand alliance, defenſive and offenſive, was concluded between the emperor, the king, and the ſtates general, in order effectually to thwart the deſigns of France, and obtain full ſatisfaction for each of the contracting parties.

Now had king William a fair opportunity of being avenged on the French monarch; for the Britiſh ſoldiers, who were but raw when he came to the throne, were now hardy veterans, and the officers had learned the art of war under that great commander: but Heaven was pleaſed to put an end to ſo valuable

ble a life upon the eighth of March, in the year 1702.

This ſudden event gave a ſhock to the grand alliance; but yet did not prove ſo fatal as ſome at firſt imagined; becauſe the army, though deprived of king William's preſence, were yet actuated by his temper, and breathed nothing but a ſpirit of valour, in imitation of his glorious exploits.

Seven hours after the expiration of that deliverer of Europe, William III. of Orange and of England, the privy-council ſat; and the queen, who was that very day proclaimed in London, gave them the ſtrongeſt aſſurances, in a pathetic and moving ſpeech, of her unalterable reſolution to purſue the meaſures taken by her glorious predeceſſor. The members of the privy-council were continued, and king William's favourites were only preferred. The duke of Marlborough was appointed general of her forces by the late king's recommending him to her ſervice as a man of a cool head and a warm heart, proper to encounter the genius of France, and put a ſtop to her deſigns of enſlaving all Europe.

His grace was accordingly ſent over to Holland, as ambaſſador-extraordinary and plenipotentiary, with her letter to the ſtates, condoling them upon the death of the king, and declaring her intentions to maintain all her alliances, preſerve the peace of Europe, and reduce the power of France.

The queen of England being crowned upon the twenty-third of April, 1702, immediately called a council; in which, after a full debate, it was agreed to declare war againſt France; and the reſolution being afterwards approved by the commons, the ſame was proclaimed upon the fourth of May, with the uſual ſolemnities.

The reaſons aſſigned were principally theſe: The French king's keeping poſſeſſion of all the Spaniſh dominions, ſeized upon Milan and the Netherlands, making himſelf maſter of the entrance into the Mediterranean, and of the ports in the Spaniſh Eaſt-Indies, by his fleets: and for offering ſo great an affront and indignity to the queen and her kingdoms, as to declare, jointly with Spain, then ſolely under his influence, the pretended prince of Wales, king of Great-Britain. The Dutch ſoon followed; and, for every ſide, there were the moſt unheard of preparations.

The prince of Naſſau-Saaſbruck opened the campaign with the ſiege of Keiſerſwaert, a ſmall but ſtrong town in the electorate of Cologn. This place coſt a vaſt trouble before it fell into the hands of the beſiegers; for, from the ſixteenth of April, the elements on the one hand, and Tallard on the other, annoyed them ſo, that, though they had reduced the town to a heap of rubbiſh, and battered the outworks with forty-eight cannon and thirty mortars, yet, till the ninth of June, they did

did not dare to attack it by ſtorm; but then they made a lodgment upon the counterſcarp, notwithſtanding a moſt deſperate and obſtinate reſiſtance, which forced the beſieged to give up the place on honourable terms, but the fort was razed according to agreement.

The taking of this place was matter of conſternation to the French ſoldiery; to recover them from which, marſhal Boufflers, being joined by count Tallard and the duke of Burgundy's corps, marched off ſilently to Nimiguen: and, notwithſtanding the reſolute behaviour of the inhabitants, who planted one hundred and ſixty pieces of cannon on the walls, to give them a warm reception, he might have poſſeſſed himſelf of that key into the United Netherlands, had not the earl of Athlone, upon the firſt advice of this march, broke up, and, by a more haſty march than that of the enemy, arrived in the neighbourhood of Nimeguen half an hour before the French could get up, and ſo ſaved that important fortreſs.

Landau ſurrendered to prince Lewis of Baden, after a ſiege of three months, on the tenth of September; and the French got a check before Hulſt, while Sas Vangent, and many other places, with a ſurpriſing alacrity, and unwearied diligence, put themſelves in a poſture of defence.

This, with their diſappointment at Nimeguen, ſo enraged the French, that they plundered the city of Cleves, and made the defenceleſs

fenceleſs country feel the effects of their revenge; which was a little allayed by a prodigy of valour executed by the brave colonel Graveſteins, who, by a ſudden march with three hundred horſe, came up to reconnoitre the enemy; and, meeting a party of four hundred cavalry, he fell upon them, notwithſtanding their fire, ſabre in hand, and killed about half of their party. This action coſt him ſix or ſeven wounds, the only price he paid for ſo great a treaſure of applauſe.

Such was the ſtate of the campaign when the duke of Marlborough, now declared maſter-general of the ordnance, arrived from England, in quality of ambaſſador, and captain-general, at the Hague; whence, after ſettling every thing, by conferences, in which his ſentiments prevailed, even though contrary to the general voice of the aſſembly, he ſet out for the army, whoſe hearts he gained by a modeſt uſe of that power wherewith he was intruſted.

He ſoon ſaw himſelf at the head of an army of ſixty thouſand men, then encamped at Duckenbourg: where, in a council of war, it was reſolved to march in purſuit of the enemy, who retreated as he advanced, and left the Confederates in poſſeſſion of the Spaniſh Guelderland.

It was during this march, that the earl of Stair firſt contracted an intimacy with the duke of Marlborough; who, obſerving his alacrity and reſolution, and the unbounded courage of the

the moſt fiery ſoldier, mixed with the wiſdom and conduct of the greyeſt hairs, became particularly fond of him; and, though the duke, by a national prejudice, was not ſo fond of encouraging Scotſmen, yet true merit affected the heart of the hero where-ever it was to be found. He obſerved in Mr. Dalrymple, for that was the name under which he went, a bravery and courage equal to the moſt dangerous enterprizes, and, at the ſame time, a conduct capable of extricating himſelf from the moſt apparent difficulties.

From Petit-Brugel, where the French camp was, they were obliged to move on the approach of the Confederates. On the ſecond of Auguſt, the army marched to demoliſh the walls of Peer and Bray, two ſmall towns in the biſhopric of Liege, which the enemy held for ſecuring their convoys. They attacked the firſt of theſe places with a bravery only to be inſpired by ſuch officers as then had the command. Every officer and every ſoldier vied with each other in diſtinguiſhing himſelf under the eye of his auguſt commander; but none more than the noble gentleman whoſe life we are now writing; for he, being made colonel of the Royal North Britiſh Dragoons, upon the ninth of March, 1702, endeavoured to raiſe the reputation of that regiment; and, being ſent to ſupport a battery, he ſtood at the head of his regiment, for ſeveral hours, while the troops were falling on each hand of him, without the leaſt alteration of countenance or

deſire

deſire to draw off, notwithſtanding a furious cannonade from that quarter of the town.

Never was man more generous to the officers, or more popular among the ſoldiers, than he; for he ſo animated them by his example, by his motion and voice, that, after having made a ſufficient breach in the walls, he marched up, ſword in hand, amidſt ſhowers of fire and of ſmoak; was the firſt to ſcale the ladder, with a drawn ſword in one hand, and piſtol in the other; awarded the blow of a grenadier, which was aimed at him, ſhot him dead on the ſpot, and mounted the wall, almoſt like another Alexander, when he leaped into the city of Oxidraques, ſingle and alone. The troops ſoon followed ſo glorious an example, and crowded about their leader, then expoſed to the fire, not only of the batteries, but of the ſmall arms of the enemy, who, being driven from their poſts in confuſion, communicated the conſternation among their comrades, who quickly deſerted the town.

The news of the taking Peer was carried quickly through the army, which reſounded the praiſes of the earl of Stair, until another action, no way more glorious, but of greater conſequence in the event, effaced the memory of that moſt ſurpriſing exploit.

A very lucky circumſtance happened for raiſing the reputation of our noble hero; for, as the Engliſh ſoldiers, in general, were diſcontented with the Dutch, for oppoſing the duke of Marlborough's propoſal to engage the French,

French, which at once might have ended the war, they were the more enraged when they ſaw what prodigies he had wrought by his bravery and conduct; and reaſoned thus: "What could not an army of ſoldiers like theſe have done in the open field, ſince barricadoes, palliſadoes, ditches, lunettes, ravelines, placed in the moſt due proportion from one another, built in the moſt commodious manner for their mutual defence, and planted with rows of devouring cannon, were unable to ſuſtain their charge?"

Whether this reaſoning was unjuſt or no, I leave to others to determine, and ſhall only obſerve, that every colonel in the confederate army, muſt not be ſuppoſed to have equalled the conduct and intrepidity of the immortal earl of Stair.

The undaunted courage ſhewn by his regiment upon this occaſion, threw a damp upon the French army; and, though ſecured by moraſſes and entrenchments, and ſuperior in numbers, they refuſed to wait the coming up of the Allies, but ſilently decamped in the night; while the duke of Burgundy, aſhamed of that inactivity, which ended ſo ingloriouſly for him, repaired to Verſailles, leaving the command to marſhal Boufflers, who was only dextrous in commanding a flying camp, bombarding a city, or ſeizing a poſt by ſurprize.

The Dutch army, who, before the coming of the duke of Marlborough, were obliged to retreat

retreat under the cannon of Nimeguen, ſaw the enemy now flying in their turn, and avoiding a battle with as much care as the duke was eager to engage them, either flying precipitately before him, or poſting themſelves behind places that were inacceſſible. They decamped on the eighteenth of Auguſt, in order to ſecure the navigation of the Maeſe, by driving the enemy from their fortreſſes, and ſo relieving Maeſtricht, then almoſt blocked up.

There is a very ſtrong town in the territory of Ruremond, in Spaniſh Guelderland, called Venlo, ſituated on the edge of an iſland formed by the confluence of the Maeſe with the little rivulet Haven; it lies near the little rivulet of Juliers, ten miles ſouth weſt of Gueldres, and eleven north of Ruremond. To this place did the Allies bend their courſe; ſat down before it on the twenty-fifth; and opened their trenches, on both ſides the Maeſe, on the the twenty-ſeventh, without loſing a man; having planted their batteries of ſixty four cannons, twenty-four mortar pieces and hawbitzers, and a vaſt number of Coehorn-mortars.

As the place was well ſtored with proviſions, and the count de Varo, the governor, was reſolved on a vigorous defence, the ſiege went on but ſlowly, till the 7th of September, when the Lord Cutts attacked fort St. Michael, between the baſtion which is next the plain, and the ravelin which lies on the north ſide of

of it. He had under him the Royal Iriſh, then commanded by Mr Stair, general Henkcom's regiment, with one hundred and ſeventy-two grenadiers, and one hundred fuſiliers, under a lieutenant-colonel; as alſo three hundred workmen, with a competent number of engineers. The grenadiers, animated by the promiſes of that brave lord, cleared the counterſcarp with their fire, avoided a mine, attacked the ravelin ſword in hand, and made a dreadful ſlaughter. The way being now paved out, his lordſhip marched up with all his forces, engaged the enemy, and ſoon became maſter of the ravelin: but their poſſeſſion of it was far from being quiet or peaceable, for the French fired inceſſantly from the rampart of the fort; on which the grenadiers threw in their grenadoes, attacked the fort ſword in hand, and drove the enemy from it ſo haſtily, that they had not time to break down their bridges, though ſupported by their grenadiers, who hotly diſputed it, by fire and puſh of pike, from the flank of one of their baſtions. They quickly were in poſſeſſion of the place, and begun a dreadful havock, it being almoſt impoſſible to check the fury of the ſoldiers for ſome time. The troops of the fort, to the number of ſix hundred, were either killed or drowned, except eighty, who paſſed the Maeſe in ſmall boats, and ſo eſcaped with their lives.

Never was a bolder action in any campaign; never did officers and ſoldiers act with more

more intrepidity: but, of them all, none ſignalized himſelf more than Mr. Stair. He was the firſt to climb up the rampart, and force his way into the fort; and, no ſooner was he on the wall, than he flew into the thickeſt ranks of the enemy, killing and wounding all who came near him. Several others, ſuch as the earl of Huntington, the duke of Argyle, and Lord Mark Ker, gave moſt convincing proofs of their bravery. Four days after, the news of the ſurrender of Landau being brought to the camp, great rejoicings were made: the ſoldiers drew up in order of battle, and a triple diſcharge from their cannon and ſmall arms was made; which being taken by the beſieged for a ſignal of a general attack, the garriſon beat a parley, and ſurrendered the place, upon condition of being conducted to Antwerp, with their arms and baggage, but without any cannon or mortars, on which they inſiſted at firſt; but gave up that laſt point. During this ſiege, which laſted four weeks, the beſieged loſt as many men as the beſiegers, but more commiſſioned officers. The French, to make amends for their loſs of Venlo, marched to Hulſt; but were ſo much galled by the cannon of the fort of the Great Kykuyt, that they were obliged to retire, with the loſs of ſix hundred men.

But, though the French miſcarried in their deſigns, yet the duke of Marlborough always carried his point; Ruremond and Stevenſwaert ſurrendered by capitulation, in ſight of

marſhal

marſhal Boufflers and the whole French army. Theſe conqueſts, though conſiderable in themſelves, were not ſufficient to ſatisfy the active ſoul of his grace, who immediately reſolved upon the bombarding of Liege, to which he moved at the head of the Confederate army; and, in his way, having notice of the place where marſhal Boufflers deſigned to be one day at noon, he marched ſo early as to be at the place before him; and, in all probability, the whole troops under that general muſt have been cut to pieces, or taken, they being within ſhot of their enemy 'ere they were aware, had not the Dutch, a ſecond time, rejected the propoſal of fighting: and, as the French decamped by favour of the night, ſo the Allies marched, about one in the morning, from their poſt at Soulendale, to Liege, on the firſt of October; and, about four o'clock in the afternoon, came within cannon ſhot of the citadel. About ſun-ſet, the troops were ſo formed, as effectually to block up the town, in which were twelve battalions of foot, fifty pieces of cannon and mortars mounted, with plenty of ammunition, and all other neceſſaries.

The town quickly fell into the hands of the conqueror; for the magiſtrates ſurrendered on condition that the citadel ſhould not be attacked on the ſide of the city, in order to prevent its being entirely deſtroyed. The keys were delivered into the duke of Marlborough's own hands; and, on the 7th, the trenches were

were opened before the great citadel, by four Engliſh battalions on the right, one of which was commanded by the deceaſed lord; and by a like number of the troops of the United Provinces.

That very evening the Allies attacked the enemy's entrenchments, which they forced and maintained. Two days after, the batteries being mounted with forty-four cannon and twelve mortars, furiouſly played upon the citadel, and blew up a magazine of the enemies, in which were one thouſand bombs and grenadoes, with ſeveral barrels of powder. Next day they not only ſet on fire another magazine, in which were ſix hundred grenadoes ready filled, but diſmounted the batteries of the enemy: and, on the third day, two more magazines were ſet on fire by the bombs. In the evening ſome ſmall mortars and grenadoes, the invention of M. Coehorn, played with a ſucceſs unprecedented till that time.

That great engineer, having obſerved the breach made by the batteries, adviſed the duke of Marlborough to attack the counterſcarp that afternoon; which propoſal being accepted, the battalions who opened the trenches began the attack, about four o'clock, under cover of the cannon which had blown up four magazines. They marched boldly up to the breach, not firing, though highly provoked to it, till within piſtol-ſhot of the counterſcarp, which they attacked with a fury that obliged the enemy to retire; and, obſerving

ſerving their conſternation, they got upon the covered way, paſſed the ditch, mounted the breach at once and took the place ſword in hand.

It is impoſſible to deſcribe the reſolution of the Allies, but, particularly, the Britiſh troops, upon this occaſion. The prince of Heſſe Caſſel, afterwards king of Sweden, voluntarily headed the grenadiers, was the firſt to mount the breach, and wreſt the colours from a French officer; and here it was that this generous hero firſt contracted an intimacy with the deceaſed lord, of whoſe intrepidity and valour he had been an eye-witneſs, and to whom he was indebted for the preſervation of his valuable life: for, as his highneſs mounted, an officer was upon the point of cutting him through with a ſabre, and infallibly he muſt have died there, and ſo would have had no opportunity of adorning the Swediſh nation, had he not been reſcued by the earl of Stair, who ſhot the officer dead upon the ſpot, with a piſtol that was tied about him by a cord. The little fort of the Chartreuſe was quickly ſurrendered to the victorious Allies, who only loſt one hundred and forty-three ſoldiers killed, and three hundred and ſixty wounded, with about twenty officers of note. This was indeed a loſs to the Allies, but a ſmall price for ſo important a place and ſo glorious a conqueſt; upon which medals were ſtruck, to perpetuate the fame of ſo noble an action.

In

In ſhort, ſo ſimilar were the mutual abilities and ſucceſs of theſe two great generals, the duke of Marlborough and the earl of Stair, in their ſucceeding campaigns, that the French were every where ſo much baffled, that, except in Spain, where they took Tortoſa and Alicant, fortune did not ſo much as ſmile upon them throughout either; ſo that the miſeries under which they groaned, drove them to the neceſſity of ſuing for peace almoſt upon any terms whatſoever.

As the duke of Marlborough had been detained in the Low-Countries, on account of ſome propoſals made for peace on the part of the French, ſo he did not arrive in England till the twenty-fifth of February, 1709; when he was attended by ſeveral of the nobility, among whom was the earl of Stair, whoſe acquaintance was now univerſal, and enabled him to ſhare very much in all the entertainments of the court.

His grace was now complimented by the Houſe of Lords; but this mighty Hoſanna was turned quickly into Crucify; which might be owing to the death of prince George of Denmark, who died upon the twenty-eighth of October, to the exceſſive grief of the queen, to whom he was the moſt loving huſband, beſides a guardian and father to the nation in general.

Her majeſty was ſo much grieved for the loſs of her beloved conſort, that ſhe could not go

go to the houſe on the ſixteenth of November, when the parliament met; but appointed commiſſioners to open the ſame in her name.

The firſt comfort that ever ſhe had, was, when ſhe ſaw the duke come in, attended by the earl of Stair; and, on looking upon him, ſhe recollected a ſaying of her royal huſband in his favour, and burſt forth into tears; and indeed it was no wonder, for he directed and guided her ſo well in the management of her affairs, that much of the ſucceſs of the campaign was owing to him.

In April, the Allies took the caſtle of Pionguville and Mortaigne, and made the enemy fly before them; after which they inveſted Doway on the twenty-ſecond, and opened trenches before it upon the twenty-fourth, carrying on the ſiege with great vigour till the twenty-ninth, when the garriſon made a ſally, but were driven back by general M'Kartney to the very counterſcarp of the place. On the twelfth of May they ſallied out again, but were driven back, by colonel Preſton, in the greateſt diſorder; and, on the ſeventeenth, a little horn-work was taken in the front of their approaches, with very ſmall loſs.

Next day another ſally was attempted; but, on the approach of the earl of Stair, who had come from Warſaw on purpoſe to confer with the duke of Marlborough concerning the meaſures to be taken with the Swedes, they retired with the utmoſt precipitation.

He continued with his grace till the twenty-ſixth, acting as a volunteer in moſt of the attacks; when he was, by a ſpecial commiſſion from the queen, on account of his merit, made a knight of the noble order of the thiſtle.

His lordſhip was introduced into the room appointed for the ceremony by the marquis of Harwich; and, being on his knees, ſupported by the earls of Orrery and Orkney, he received the enſigns of the order from the duke of Marlborough, who put the ribbon and medal about his neck; tendered the oath and ſtatutes to him in preſence of many general officers, to whom he afterwards gave a grand entertainment, and appeared more than uſually ſatisfied with what he had done.

As the buſineſs would not permit the earl to continue any longer at the ſiege, he again ſet out for Warſaw, with full power to act as he ſhould ſee cauſe; and, at the ſame time, with poſitive injunctions to inform the king of Poland how much the duke of Marlborough had his intereſt at heart.

As it is not our buſineſs to enter minutely into an account of what happened in Poland during the ambaſſy of this noble lord, we ſhall only obſerve, that king Auguſtus entered cloſely into an alliance with the kings of Denmark and Pruſſia, againſt the king of Sweden; and, that theſe, with the czar, harraſſed his troops, and attacked them on every quarter, though ſometimes they were made to ſmart for their procedure; witneſs the battles of Helſinburgh,

ſinburgh, in 1711, and Gadebuſh, in 1713, where the famous marſhal Saxe learned his firſt rudiments of war. It is true, indeed, theſe brave troops, who had gained ſo much glory in theſe actions with general Steinbock, were made priſoners afterwards; and the unfortunate king of Sweden, in the year 1714, returned to his dominions, then deſolate and almoſt ready to receive the conqueror: but, to return to the earl of Stair,

He was all this time at Warſaw in the cloſeſt friendſhip and correſpondence with his Poliſh majeſty, who ſometimes did him the honour to dine at his houſe; and one day the king, who had a ſurpriſing dexterity added to an incredible ſtrength of body, being at dinner, took one of the ſilver plates in his hand and folded it up like a piece of tin; but correcting his miſtake, he begged of the Britiſh ambaſſador to be excuſed; "For," ſaid he, "I was thinking upon ſomething." His excellency accepted his apology, and returned the compliment with all the ſweetneſs and grace that could be ſhewn from ſuch an ambaſſador to ſo great a king.

One other day, his Poliſh majeſty and he being pretty familiar, the former took up a ſword in his hand, with which he made ſome flouriſhes, and cauſed the blade to ſpring from the handle; and told the earl, that he never ſaw a ſword but he could uſe in that manner.

Thus he continued for four years, in which time he contracted an acquaintance with the

moſt part of the foreign ambaſſadors, and framed to himſelf a clear idea of the intereſts of the ſeveral courts in the north. He is thought, by ſome, to have been the firſt who, by means of the duke of Marlborough, projected the renunciation of Bremen and Verden, on the part of the king of Denmark, in favour of king George I. and, as this was an additional jewel to his majeſty's German dominions, ſo it was afterwards the very means by which Sweden was ſaved, as one million of crowns were granted by king George I. to that kingdom, and a powerful fleet ſent up the Baltic to ſtop the incurſions of the Ruſſians, and to bring about a peace, which was afterwards actually done.

He was called home in the year 1713, when he was ſtripped of all his employments; and, having lived very ſplendidly at Warſaw, he contracted ſome debts which, at that time, lay heavy upon him. His plate and equipage were ready to be arreſted; and perhaps would have been expoſed to ſale, if one Mr. Lawſon, who was a lieutenant in the Cameronian regiment, had not generouſly granted him a loan of one thouſand eight hundred pounds; and it is hard to ſay, whether Mr. Lawſon's goodneſs or the earl of Stair's gratitude, ever after, was moſt to be admired.

He now returned from court to his own eſtate; thus following the fate of his patron the duke of Marlborough, who had been ſerved

ſerved in the ſame manner about two years before.

Queen Anne dying on the firſt of Auguſt, in the fiftieth year of her age, and thirteenth of her reign, the elector of Hanover, king George I. was crowned, with all poſſible magnificence and ſplendor, ſurrounded by his particular favourites, whoſe diſgraces formerly now made them appear with a brighter luſtre. Among the number of thoſe received into his favour was the earl of Stair, who, upon the twenty eighth of October, was appointed one of the lords of his bedchamber; next day was ſworn one of his privy-council; and, in November, was made commander in chief of all his forces in Scotland: and, indeed, he added an additional luſtre to theſe places which he filled.

The nation, in general, were well pleaſed with the arrival of king George; and, generally, the favourites of the duke of Marlborough were choſen to repreſent the counties and boroughs in the parliament that was ſummoned to meet on the ſeventeenth of March, 1715: and, in Scotland, the oppoſers of the former miniſtry prevailed; and the earl of Stair, tho' abſent, was, upon the third of this month, unanimouſly choſen as a repreſentative in the firſt Septennial parliament.

Upon the king's acceſſion to the throne, ambaſſadors were ſent to ſeveral powers of Europe; and, as the French court was both the moſt ſplendid, and her intrigues the moſt dan-

gerous, a perſon of ſpirit, of a ſound mind in a ſound body; one of an enterpriſing genius, of a polite taſte and deep penetration, was to be diſpatched to her. The perſon thought of by the duke of Marlborough, and by the king himſelf, was the lord Stair; who, on his being introduced to his royal maſter, was complimented on his prudent management in Poland and deſired to behave as he ſhould ſee occaſion.

He ſet out for Paris in January, 1715, and, in a few days after, entered that capital, in ſo ſplendid a manner, that the other ambaſſadors admired him, while old Lewis himſelf looked upon it as a banter upon him in his capital; and, to ſpeak conſcientiouſly, as every hiſtorian ought to do, according to his light, how could he do otherwiſe? for, lo! an ambaſſador from a prince, whom, ſome few months ago, he had actually deſired ſhould be degraded from the honour of an elector in the empire, raiſed to a throne, little inferior at any time, but now much more ſplendid than his own: lo! this ambaſſador making a more brilliant appearance than any of the ſame ſtation ever did before; and yet nothing when compared to his public entry in the year 1719, when he complimented his late majeſty on his mounting the throne, the manner of which we ſhall afterwards ſet down for the amuſement of our readers.

He was not many days here before an opportunity offered of diſtinguiſhing his rare abilities,

lities, and confirming his maſter in the good opinion formed of him, and increaſing the fears of the French king, who had heard of his character, and was even chagrined at his conduct for the ſhort time he had reſided at his court.

By the ninth article of the treaty of Utrecht it was expreſly ſtipulated, That the harbour of Dunkirk ſhould be filled up; and, that the dykes, which form the canal and moles, ſhould be deſtroyed.

There was indeed a pretended execution of this article, but nothing like fulfilling of the treaty, as eaſily occurred to any perſon that viewed it; yea, further than this, the grand monarch had ordered a haven and canal to be made at Mardyke, which were much more capacious than thoſe of Dunkirk itſelf. Mr. Prior, the former ambaſſador, had complained of it, upon the twelfth of October before, and inſiſted that the treaty ſhould be fulfilled. An anſwer, full of the moſt evaſive arguments, was drawn up; but the ſame was far from being ſatisfactory, and, as the matter ſtill continued open, his excellency, the earl of Stair, on the fifth of February, laid a clear repreſentation of the matter before the French miniſtry; in which he demonſtrated, that the works, according to the treaty, ought to be deſtroyed by mens hands, and not left to the waſtings of time, or encroachments of the ſea, which every thing was ſubject to. He ſet forth, that it was inconſiſtent, in the nature of things,

to think that the haven was demoliſhed, while another was built in its neighbourhood which might prove more detrimental to the commerce of the Britiſh ſubjects than Dunkirk itſelf. He pointed out a way how the water might be drained, without overflowing the country, as they pretended, and that with little trouble or expence; and then demanded ſuch an anſwer as might be ſatisfactory to his maſter and his ſubjects, and prevent the bad effects which might be the reſult of a contrary conduct.

To this it was anſwered, That all imaginable forwardneſs had been ſhewn, on the part of the moſt Chriſtian king, exactly to fulfil the ninth article of the treaty of Utrecht, till hindered by the Engliſh commiſſaries themſelves; that the canal, which he was obliged to open, for preventing the ſubmerſion of a vaſt extent of country, and ſaving the lives of its inhabitants, ought to give no umbrage to Great-Britain, ſince his inclination was not to keep fleets there for diſturbing the navigation and commerce of his neighbours; and, that he deſired nothing more than that France and Great Britain ſhould unite in the ſtricteſt bands of correſpondence and friendſhip.

Thus did the French anſwer the plaineſt reaſoning, and elude the force of the moſt notorious facts; and even gave out, that they intended to live in harmony with the king of Great-Britain, while, in the mean time, they were meditating an invaſion in favour of the pretender to his crown.

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The old French king eaſily foreſaw, how much the ſyſtem of affairs in England would be altered by the removal of a ſweet tempered princeſs, who was ready, by deluſive arguments, to give into the moſt deſtructive ſchemes; with real grief did he at the ſame time obſerve, that the prince upon earth whom he moſt feared, had mounted the throne of that kingdom, which he ever inclined to have dependent upon him as his own; and, to create him as much trouble as poſſible, did he encourage the old chevalier, who publiſhed a declaration, ſuperſcribed James R. dated Auguſt 29, 1714, in French, Latin, and Engliſh, ſetting out his claim to the crown of theſe realms.

The paper was handed about, and, on the thirteenth of November, ſome of them being ſent to the dukes of Argyle and Marlborough, who delivered them to the king, a proclamation was emitted, for ſuppreſſing tumults and inſurrections, and for preventing conſpiracies, which, at that time began to be feared; and a premium of one hundred thouſand pounds was ſet upon the head of the pretender, if he ſhould land, or attempt to land, in any of the king's dominions.

This was the ſtate of affairs in Britain, till the meeting of the parliament, on the ſeventeenth of March, 1715; when his majeſty, being ſeated on his throne, cauſed the lord-chancellor to read his firſt ſpeech; in which, after thanking them for their zeal in defence

of the proteſtant ſucceſſion, he obſerved, That the unparallelled ſucceſs of the late war had not been attended with a ſuitable concluſion: the pretender was ſtill in Lorrain, and boaſted of aſſiſtance to repair his former misfortunes. He told them, That a great part of their trade was impracticable; and their public debts, which were great, had ſurpriſingly increaſed, even ſince the fatal ceſſation of arms: and, that he had paid off a great number of ſhips for the eaſe of his people.

He concluded with recommending harmony among themſelves; and declared, That he ſhould judge thoſe his beſt friends, who ſhould aſſiſt him in promoting the happineſs of his people.

Both houſes of parliament made ſuitable returns of gratitude to this moſt excellent ſpeech of the king; complied with all his deſires: gave him the ſtrongeſt aſſurances of their loyalty; and expreſſed their amazement, that the pretender to his crown ſhould be permitted to reſide ſo near his dominions.

This intelligence about the deſigns of the pretender was owing to the earl of Stair, who ſpared no pains or coſt to find out his plots and contrivances. He kept the moſt ſplendid houſe in Paris, next to that of the king; and having with him his counteſs and her daughter, both ladies of the greateſt honour and politeneſs, he was viſited by the principal lords and ladies, whom he would entertain with all poſſible elegance; and, after keeping them, perhaps till

ten

ten o'clock at night, he would pretend buſineſs, and leave the company to the care of his lady, withdraw to his room, undreſs himſelf, and repair to the coffee-houſes incognito; and, by a dextrous method of converſation, find out the ſecrets of the day.

It was in one of theſe excurſions that he was informed of the pretender's being at court; for one Mr. Mackdonald, of Clanranald's family, who knew very well the deſign, judging, that the gentleman with whom he converſed, viz. the earl of Stair, was as great a Jacobite as himſelf, declared the whole that he knew of the matter; and, at the ſame time informed him of the dreſs which he wore, and the time he generally appeared.

Next day the earl went to the palace, and ſaw the chevalier in the ſame dreſs that Mackdonald had deſcribed him. He therefore went immediately to pay a viſit to the duke of Lorrain's ambaſſador, and converſed pretty ſeriouſly with him: but that nobleman was either unacquainted with his deſign, or elſe, from a political turn, he ſpoke ſo ambiguouſly that nothing could be learned from him.

After this, he went to pay a viſit to the lady of the duke de Villars, hoping, by her means, to get information of him. He was received by that noblewoman entirely ala mode de Paris; and, being invited to take a hand at backgammond with her and ſome other ladies, he, deſignedly, allowed them to gain; by which means their ſpirits became highly ele-

vated, and they talked with but little reſerve.

The ſubject of the converſation then turned upon the enquiry into the conduct of the late Britiſh miniſtry; and, at laſt, they talked of the old chevalier. The dutcheſs of Villars had but a mean opinion of him, and ſpoke of him rather in a geering manner, than as one who ſympathized with his caſe; and at laſt ſaid, That ſhe believed, ere long, another trial would be made in favour of the poor fugitive.

This was but the beginning of that admirable policy which afterwards he diſcovered for the ſupport of his king and preſervation of his country. By his charming addreſs, and manly behaviour, he procured the eſteem of his court; all who ſaw him loved him, though no way concerned in him: the whole nobles admired him without envy, and his enemies dreaded him without hatred of his perſon. He became acquainted with the whole members of the miniſtry; by whom he was regalled for the brightneſs of his genius, his majeſtic mein, his lovely and amiable countenance, and, what was more than all, for his inſtructive diſcourſes, and his ſurpriſing judgment, when talking of the art of war. He was too quick ſighted not to obſerve a general devaſtation in France, where famine, hunger, and diſcontent were to be read in the faces of all the populace.

The miſerable ſtate of the body of France was not, however, an obſervation only of the earl of Stair's, but alſo of all the great men of their nation, whom he frequently invited to his houſe, and ſeldom or never diſmiſſed them without ſome preſent or other. He complimented ſeveral of them with a ſet of fine horſes of the Galloway breed; preſented the princeſs of the blood, and the great men of the court, with two of theſe at a time; and would merrily ſay, That he thought no man ſhould pretend, in a foreign country, to make preſents of any thing but what was the product of his own.

By this dextrous management he got notice of all the intrigues at court; and ſcarce was there any thing, relating to Britain, tranſacted in the cabinet of Verſailles, but it was known at the court of Britain as ſoon as a courier could arrive with the news. But, though, by this means, he had the moſt perfect intelligence, yet he did not think the matter entirely ſafe, till he had one of the lords of the council in his actual pay. The method he took with him was this:

He agreed with him for a ſum, which was to be augmented in proportion to the importance of the intelligence which he gave; and at the ſame time it was ſettled, that every night a packet, with a certain ſeal, ſhould be ſent to his houſe, or to the coffee-houſe which he appointed.

The

The ſcheme took extremely well; for, as his lordſhip paid in the moſt liberal manner, not one thing happened in the cabinet, but was drawn forth and preſented before him. All the plans for bringing in the chevalier were divulged from time to time; and truſty meſſengers, among whom was the brave captain Gardner, were diſpatched with them: ſo that the French king was aſtoniſhed to hear, that king George, on the twentieth of July, had informed his parliament, that a deſign was carrying on to invade his dominions in favour of the pretender to his crown. He was at a loſs how to behave; but, being informed of the many expreſſes diſpatched by the earl of Stair, he ſent for him, and told him pretty roundly, That he was well aſſured of frequent diſpatches he ſent to his court; and, at the ſame time, diſguiſed the matter ſo far as to ſay,

"This can be from no other motive, but to apprize your king of my bad ſtate of health, which is far from being what you may apprehend; for, if you come to my palace to-morrow, you ſhall ſee me eat a fowl as heartily as ever I did in my life-time."

Next day his lordſhip came to court, and ſaw the old king at dinner for the laſt time that ever he publicly appeared. The fickly monarch was very languid, and bore in his viſage the evident marks of an approaching diſſolution;

tion; and, for ſome time, ſeeming to diſguſt the niceſt dainties, till, caſting his eyes upon the earl of Stair, who, to uſe the words of the eminent doctor Dodderidge,

"Was very diſagreeable to that crafty and tyrannical prince, he affected to appear in a much better ſtate of health than he really was; and therefore, as if he had been awakened from ſome deep riverie, he immediately put himſelf up into an erect poſture, called up a laboured vivacity into his countenance, and eat much more heartily than was by any means adviſeable; repeating it two or three times to a nobleman, I think the duke of Bourbon, then in waiting, 'Methinks I eat very well for a man that is to die ſo ſoon.'

"But this inroad upon that regularity of living, which he had for ſome time obſerved, agreed ſo ill with him, that he never recovered this meal, but died in leſs than a fortnight after."

This event happened on the firſt of September, 1715; when he left ſuch advice to his great grandſon, that, had it been followed, would have proved his own happineſs, as well as that of the nations around him; which was, not to imitate him in three things: viz. The paſſion he had entertained, for the enlargement and aggrandizing of his dominions; in his attachment to pleaſure; and in exceſſive and uſeleſs expences, to the deſolation of his ſubjects:

jects: and with theſe, or ſuch like, expreſſions, did he cloſe a life that had been ſpent in the purſuits of luxury, of ambition, and of triumph.

The death of old Lewis, whom the French hiſtorians compare to Auguſtus Cæſar, and are at a loſs what eulogiums to give him, would have daſhed the Pretender's ſcheme to pieces, if it had not been cheriſhed at home: for, as an enquiry was carrying on againſt the former miniſtry, upon whom treaſons and miſdemeanors were charged, their friends thought proper to divert the trial, by carving out work from another quarter. Among thoſe who ſided with the late miniſtry was John earl of Mar, a nobleman bred up in all the principles of the Revolution, to which he firmly adhered, except in the inſtance of excurſion I am ſoon to relate. He was Secretary of State at the time of the Union, was one of the commiſſioners for concluding of it, and had continued in parliament, as a repreſentative, till this very time; nay, ſo ſtrenuouſly did he promote, and afterwards ſupport it, that, when ſpeaking of any thing which he inſiſted could not be altered, his uſual phraſe was, "You may as well diſſolve the Union." This man was, however, very cunning and politic; and ſo much did he delight in acting the part of a ſtateſman, that his itch after this had the preference to all his deſires. He had been intimate with the earl of Oxford (who was then in priſon) and was ſuppoſed to have been.

been privy to all his ſecrets, which, if once found out, muſt prove fatal to himſelf; therefore, to deliver his friend from his captivity, did he think of raiſing a rebellion. Oxford, who was very well attached to the Hanoverian ſucceſſion (as, indeed, was the earl of Mar, who was much diſguſted for his diſappointment at the election of the Scottiſh repreſentatives in parliament, in March before) liberally furniſhed him with money for ſtirring up the confuſion. Theſe two great politicians eaſily foreſaw that the thing would not do; all they wanted by it was, to obtain their own ſafety, to ſcreen themſelves from a parliamentary enquiry, and, by ſuppreſſing the inſurrection, to ſecure the conſtitution the more. Two years after Oxford was arraigned before his peers; but they and the commons differing about the method of procedure, he was diſmiſſed from their bar.

The earl of Mar was at no loſs to find out engines, whom he could very eaſily move by the ſprings of his political views; and, leſt he ſhould be ſuſpected, becauſe, in this, he was acting contrary to all his former principles, nay, and to his ſolemn proteſtations of loyalty to king George; he brought over ſome young unexperienced noblemen, ſuch as the Earls Mariſhal and Strathmore, the marquis of Tullibardin and Huntley; and, meeting them privately at Braemar, he talked of the ſcheme, and, by his inſinuations, ſoon made an impreſſion upon their minds, which were

were ready to receive the firſt that was offered.

Having got theſe noblemen to keep him in countenance, he was aſſured of being joined by a conſiderable army, and that was, by the M'Donalds of Slate, of Clanranald, Glengary, Keppoch, and Glenco, by the Camerons, the M'Leans, M'Grigors, M'Kinnons, M'Pherſons, M'Intoſhes, and many others; and though he looked with as much diſdain on theſe tumultuous people (who have proved rebels to moſt of the Scots kings) as any man in Britain, yet he made uſe of them to anſwer his own, and his patron's deſigns. Theſe people, who have little more to do with the Britiſh conſtitution than ſo many Moſcovites or Tartars, immediately aroſe, to dethrone a king whom they had addreſſed but a few months before, with the moſt ſolemn proteſtations of loyalty, and had aſſured of their attachment to his intereſt; and, gathering ſtrength as they advanced, there was ſoon muſtered up an army of ten thouſand men, Scots and Engliſh included, to favour the cauſe of the Chevalier, whoſe ſtandard was ſet up, September 6th, at Braemar, his declarations publiſhed, and he, in the mean time, proclaimed.

The news of this inſurrection was moſt ſurpriſing at court: but, as a man does not, upon ſeeing an houſe on fire, ſet himſelf to enquire into the cauſe of the flame, but rather to extinguiſh it; ſo the government immediately

ately diſpatched the duke of Argyle, then lieutenant-general of the king's forces in Scotland, to ſuppreſs the rebellion. He quickly recruited the regiments which had been diminiſhed by the king for the eaſe of his people, and had got together an army of three thouſand three hundred and fifty regular forces, beſides the Glaſgow and other militia, by the 13th of November, when he attacked the rebels on Sheriff-muir, to prevent their croſſing the Forth. The Highlanders came, with their uſual fury, upon the left wing, which was not well formed, and the horſes, which were young, falling a capering on the firſt fire, turned and trod down their own foot, who fled off in the greateſt confuſion, and were purſued, with a terrible ſlaughter, even to Dumblain: but, while this was doing upon the left, the right of the king's troops broke the left of the enemy, who hurried along with them upwards of ſix thouſand, and purſued them to the water of Allan, making a dreadful havock, as they ſeveral times endeavoured to rally, and return to the charge. The ſcene here was very confuſed, for, while ſome were ſtriving to form, others betook themſelves to incloſures, and cried out they were forced; which his grace hearing, he commanded Evans's dragoons to ſtop, juſt when they had ſurrounded them, and were ready to cut them in pieces, ordering a trumpet to ſound, informing them, that they were allowed to return home, on condition they ſhould lay down

their

their arms; which was immediately complied with. On his grace's return, he was aſtoniſhed to ſee a number of highlanders drawn up, upon a riſing ground, betwixt him and Dumblain; nor, indeed, were the others leſs aſtoniſhed, to ſee the royaliſts return from the chace: both held a council of war, where the queſtion was, Attack the enemy, or not? The duke of Argyle was for the former; but ſir Robert Hay told him, that his ſoldiers and horſes were fatigued, and his ammunition ſpent; whereas the rebels were recruited with the arms of the wing that had been broke: that the buſineſs of the Royaliſts was, to get betwixt them and Stirling, that key into the weſt and north. This ſalutary advice being approved, the duke directed his march, with his victorious troops, below the field of battle, while the enemy were ſpectators of it. Here was in them the moſt unaccountable infatuation, or elſe the earl of Mar acted the moſt political part. The clans in general, with the earl mariſhal's horſe, and ſeveral of the boldeſt of the left wing that had been broke, declared ſuch eagerneſs to attack, that ſcarcely authority itſelf could reſtrain them; for they were fired with revenge, as Clanranald, whom they admired, with the earl of Strathmore, was lying dead before them. Glengary ſaid to Mar, By G—d you never will have ſuch an opportunity of them again: to which his lordſhip anſwered, "You are miſtaken; conſider that night is coming on; the flower of the king's

king's troops are only here, and I do not chuſe too much to expoſe them." By theſe ſoothing expreſſions they were hindered from entering upon another action; in caſe of which, I am far from pretending to determine who would have been the conqueror. At night they marched back to their camp, and, next day, the Royaliſts appeared on the field of battle, ready to engage; but the clans, now diſheartened, had no ſtomach to advance towards them. Such was the action at Sherriff-muir, in which the Royaliſts loſt above five hundred men, among whom, was the brave earl of Forfar; whom the rebels taking for the duke of Argyle, hacked almoſt to pieces. The rebels loſt full as many, and the remainder were quite diſheartened at their diſappointment.

Among the regiments who diſtinguiſhed themſelves in the cauſe of their country, was the earl of Stair's regiment of dragoons; for, at the head of that corps, animated by the ſpirit of their colonel, and Evans's dragoons, did his grace firſt break through the left of the rebel army, and ſnatched out of their hands an advantage, which, for ſome time, they judged themſelves poſſeſſed of. From this time there was no further motion, till Candlemas, when his grace ſet out for Perth, to beat up the quarters of the Pretender; who had landed at Peterhead, on the 25th of December, with the marquis of Tinmouth, and a few officers: he, with the remainder of the ſhattered troops that appeared for him, fled

before

before the king's forces, leaving his men at Montroſe, without any ceremony, embarked in a ſmall ſloop for France, where he ſafely arrived. Nor went his affairs in England better than in Scotland; for the noblemen of the Roman catholic religion, who were joined by brigadier M'Intoſh, and the earls of Carnwath, Wintoun, and Nithiſdale, were all made priſoners upon the very day of the action at Dumblain, upon none other terms but, that they ſhould not be cut in pieces till the king's pleaſure was known.

The regiment of the earl of Stair was not more active in the field of Dumblain, for breaking the rebel battalions, than his lordſhip was in France, for defeating any attempts that might be made to aſſiſt them; and the diſtinct accounts, which are contained in the following Memorials, will eaſily convince any perſon, both of his lordſhip's aſſiduity and zeal for the intereſt of his country, and of his uſing the methods we formerly mentioned for procuring intelligence.

Lord Stair's Memorial to the Regent.

THE underwritten earl of Stair, miniſter of Great-Britain to his moſt Chriſtian majeſty, finds himſelf obliged to repreſent to his royal highneſs, the duke of Orleans, regent of France, That, notwithſtanding his royal highneſs has frequently aſſured the ſaid earl, that he

he would faithfully and punctually obſerve the articles of peace made between Great-Britain and France at the treaty of Utrecht; that he would not permit either arms, ammunition, officers, or ſoldiers, to be tranſported out of France for the ſervice of the pretender: and, although, in conformity to theſe intentions, his royal highneſs had even ſent expreſs orders to all the ports and havens of the kingdom, it is certain, nevertheleſs, that the ſeveral particulars before enumerated, are every day tranſported from the harbours of France, without the leaſt obſtruction whatſoever from thoſe who command in the ſaid ports on the part of his moſt Chriſtian majeſty.

The late duke of Ormond, and the pretender, have been frequently on board certain veſſels at St. Malo, which were known to be loaded with ammunition and arms for the pretender's ſervice; and this with ſo little reſerve or circumſpection, that they were publicly attended and followed by a troop of Nugent's horſe, commanded by their proper officers, all mounted in their regimental cloaths and accoutrements; and this without the leaſt check from his moſt Chriſtian majeſty's officers commanding at St. Malo.

The pretender, not thinking it proper to venture himſelf to ſea at this juncture, took the road towards Normandy, in order to embark at Dunkirk; and the late duke of Ormond, in the ſame manner, declining to land in England, came back to Morlaix.

When

When the pretender was gone to Scotland, attended by the above-mentioned troopers of Nugent's regiment, his royal highneſs was pleaſed to promiſe the underwritten miniſter, that he would treat them as deſerters, if ever they returned to France; and the mareſchal d'Uxelles at the ſame time aſſured the ſaid earl, that he would hang them all, without diſtinction.

Theſe ſoldiers are now returned, and have joined their regiment. Monſieur Beſach, and his company, remain, to this very hour, at Morlaix, as alſo the arms and ammunition that he had with him for his intended expedition; which being removed out of one ſhip into another, in the harbour of Morlaix, the commanding officer there was ſo far from confiſcating the ſaid arms and ammunition, that he even refuſed to ſearch the veſſel, tho' he was deſired ſo to do by captain Campbell, commander of an Engliſh ſhip, which yet remains in that port.

Within five weeks paſt, ſeveral veſſels have ſailed from Dieppe and Havre de Grace, with arms and ammunition, officers and money, for the pretender's ſervice; all which are actually arrived in Scotland: and, to be more particular, there ſailed a veſſel from Havre de Grace, on the ſeventeenth of this month, in the face of an officer belonging to the king of Great-Britain; who having repreſented to the marquis of Rouvray, that there lay, at that time, both in Havre de Grace and at Harfleur,

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at leaſt twenty officers, ready to follow the pretender into Scotland, on board the ſaid veſſel, and begged him to prevent their embarking: the marquis replied, That what he ſaid might be very true; but, that he could not prevent their going on board, having no orders from court for that purpoſe.

The ſaid earl of Stair has alſo frequently repreſented, both to his royal highneſs the regent, and the mareſchal d' Huxelles, that ſeveral generals, colonels, and other officers, then actually engaged in the ſervice of France, were determined to go and join the rebels in Scotland. The ſaid earl went ſo far as even to give the mareſchal d' Huxelles a liſt of the ſaid generals and other officers, who, agreeable to the ſaid earl's repreſentation, are now actually at Boulogne, Calais, Dunkirk, and other places in that neighbourhood, ready to tranſport themſelves with the firſt opportunity into Scotland, from whence they have been hitherto detained by nothing but the exceſſive cold of the ſeaſon and contrary winds; the commanding officers in the ſaid places openly avowing, that they have received no orders to prevent their embarkation.

The earl of Stair finds it his duty to repreſent theſe facts to the duke regent, to the end that his royal highneſs may himſelf determine, whether his orders have been executed with punctuality; and, whether it may be thought in Great-Britain, that the treaty of Utrecht

has been faithfully complied with on the part of France.

The aforeſaid earl of Stair finds himſelf obliged to acquaint his royal highneſs, That the late duke of Ormond, and ſeveral others, who have conſpired equally againſt their king and country, did, within a few days, begin their journey towards Bourdeaux and Bayonne; and, that they have got together, upon the coaſt of Gaſcony, a conſiderable quantity of arms, ammunition, and ſhips, with which the court of St. Germains boaſts its intention to make a deſcent in Ireland; which, as the ſame court flatters itſelf, will be ſupported, not only with the money, but even with the troops, of France.

The earl of Stair, who has always laboured with the utmoſt zeal, to eſtabliſh a good and perfect friendſhip between the king his maſter and his royal highneſs the duke-regent, cannot help being much concerned to find himſelf reduced to make remonſtrances upon points of ſo tickliſh a nature, ſo capable of deſtroying the harmony that at preſent ſubſiſts between two nations, and of producing ſuch diſcontents as may be attended with the moſt grievous conſequences, if not immediately prevented by neceſſary orders.

It was not poſſible to elude the force of this repreſentation; and, accordingly, his royal highneſs ſaw, that, to remove all ſuſpicions, and

and preſerve the friendſhip of Great-Britain, he muſt be obliged to ſpeak plain; agreeable to which, his anſwer was, That he would forbid the exportation of any arms or ammunition out of the kingdom; and, that he ſhould ſend ſuch orders to all the ports of France as his Britannic majeſty deſired, together with inſtructions for the captains of ſuch veſſels as were bound for any part of Scotland.

Another Memorial by lord Stair to the Regent.

THE earl of Stair, miniſter of the king of Great-Britain to his moſt Chriſtian majeſty, has received expreſs orders from the king his maſter, to acquaint his royal highneſs the duke of Orleans, regent of France, with the flight of the pretender, and the diſperſion of the rebels in Scotland. His majeſty is perſuaded this news will be very acceptable to the duke regent, as well on account of the proximity of their blood, as in regard to the ſtrict friendſhip which his majeſty has ſo carefully cultivated with his highneſs.

The treaty of Utrecht is ſo recent, that the king was perſuaded his royal highneſs would have taken the neceſſary meaſures to have prevented the pretender's ſetting his foot in France; but, ſince the ſaid pretender has found means to return thither, his majeſty aſ-

ſures himſelf, that, ſo ſoon as his royal highneſs ſhall be made acquainted with it, he will take the neceſſary meaſures to oblige him to quit the kingdom.

The king of Great Britain commands the earl of Stair to inſiſt, in the ſtrongeſt manner, with his royal highneſs, That thoſe perſons who ſtand condemned by the laws of England, and are declared rebels and traitors to their king and country, may not be permitted to remain in France; and, that the chief abettors and authors of the late rebellion may be immediately obliged to leave the kingdom; and, that his royal highneſs will declare his reſolution, not to permit the ſaid rebels ever to return into France; or, that other perſons, who may hereafter be condemned and declared rebels, ſhall at any time be received, or find protection in that kingdom.

His royal highneſs is too reaſonable and too wiſe, not to ſee the juſtice and propriety of this demand. Great-Britain can never repoſe herſelf in ſafety and peace, whilſt ſhe ſees thoſe perſons received and entertained in her neighbourhood, who have endeavoured, with open force, to bring on the ruin and total ſubverſion of their country. Nor can France be perfectly aſſured, that ſhe ſhall not once again ſee herſelf expoſed to bear all the blame and reſentment due to undertakings of ſo miſchievous a nature.

The king and people of Great-Britain think themſelves ſecure on the ſide of France, by virtue

virtue of the ſolemn treaty of Utrecht, by which the pretender is excluded from the dominions of his moſt Chriſtian majeſty; and by which France ſtands obliged to give him no aſſiſtance, either in ſhips, arms, or ammunition; in money, ſoldiers, or officers; no, nor either council or advice, either directly or indirectly. Yet the above-mentioned rebels arrive; they aſk refuge and protection in France! and are no ſooner there, than, by the commodiouſneſs of their ſituation, and conveniency of the poſt, they plot and contrive the blackeſt and moſt deteſtable treaſon againſt their country; which, depending on the faith of the treaty of Utrecht, was unarmed and defenceleſs. In defiance of this treaty, they find means to bring the pretender into France, and, by their intrigues, they furniſh him with ſhips, arms, and ammunition; officers, ſoldiers, and money; with which aſſiſtance the pretender has actually invaded Great-Britain, and brought infinite damages to the nation.

His royal highneſe may imagine, that Great-Britain could not long endure the uneaſineſs that muſt be derived from the neighbourhood of thoſe rebels, ready to bring fire and ſword into the heart of the kingdom, and to renew all the horrors that accompany rebellion.

In this ſituation Great-Britain would find herſelf obliged to be perpetually upon her guard; and would be ſubject to continual diſturbances and apprehenſions: a condition more vexatious than even open war, to a nation

tion equally anxious for the preſervation of its laws and liberties, as deſirous to live in peace with its neighbours.

His royal highneſs may learn, from the unanimous addreſs of both houſes of parliament to the king, what ſenſe the nation entertains of this uncertain and violent ſituation. The king has the happineſs of his ſubjects too much at heart, not to enter warmly both into their opinions and intereſt; and he flatters himſelf, that, upon this occaſion, his royal highneſs will not refuſe him the juſt proof he has deſired of his friendſhip, and of his diſpoſition to entertain a good underſtanding between the two nations.

For the ſame reaſons, the king of Great-Britain hopes his royal highneſs the regent, will conour with his majeſty to ſolicit the duke of Loraine, in the moſt effectual manner, that the pretender may not be permitted to return into his dominions.

The earl of Stair has alſo received orders to remind his royal highneſs of the declaration he has already made, that ſuch officers in the ſervice of France, as followed the pretender into Scotland, ſhall be caſhiered. And the king is perſuaded, that his royal highneſs will not permit ſuch general officers, colonels, and others, who may have followed and aſſiſted the pretender in the late rebellion, ever to be employed afreſh in the ſervice of his moſt Chriſtian majeſty: and, if any of the ſaid officers ſhould hereafter return, or be already returned,

into

into France, that his royal highneſs will cauſe them to be puniſhed, ſo that their conduct may appear to have been as highly diſpleaſing to his royal highneſs and the government, as it is contrary to the treaty of Utrecht.

To prevent all miſtakes in a buſineſs of ſo important and delicate a nature, the earl of Stair has orders to demand an anſwer in writing to this Mememorial, which he paſſionately wiſhes to be ſuch as may contribute to reeſtabliſh a good intelligence between the two nations.

So reſolute a declaration reduced his royal highneſs to the neceſſity of declaring himſelf. There was no medium; he muſt either ſatisfy Great-Britain, by refuſing the pretender a retreat in France, or abſolutely break with a prince whoſe friendſhip might be of ſervice to him, for the ſake of a gueſt who was both unuſeful to him and his friends, as well as troubleſome to thoſe who protected him. In a word, fortune having already abjured the pretender, it was no hard matter for the regent to do ſo too; and, agreeable to this, by the advice of the abbot du Bois, he made the earl of Stair the following anſwer, after having acquainted the pretender with his reſolution, who immediately took the road to Avignon.

HIS royal highneſs, taking part in the glory and victory of the king of Great-Britain, received the news of the ſucceſs of his

arms in Scotland with ſo much the greater pleaſure, as it is an event which, at the ſame time that it ſecures the tranquillity of his Britannic majeſty's dominions, will alſo put an end to thoſe falſe reports that have been artfully propagated by ſuch as are enemies to the public peace, in order to impair that friendſhip and confidence which the king is reſolved to entertain with his majeſty of Great-Britain; a point that has always engaged the utmoſt attention of his royal highneſs, who, being deſirous to comply exactly with the treaty of Utrecht, has always made uſe of the authority with which he is intruſted, to oblige the Chevalier de St. George to leave his kingdom; and his royal highneſs will continue to employ the ſame authority to prevent his return at any time hereafter, or under any pretext whatſoever.

With reſpect to ſuch fugitives as may have fled from England into his majeſty's dominions, or that may fly thither hereafter, though nothing be better underſtood than the laws of ſanctuary and protection in all foreign ſtates, his royal highneſs being deſirous to ſhew his majeſty of Great-Britain, how very inconſiſtent it is with the king's intentions, to ſuffer an abuſe of that protection, by permitting perſons to enjoy it who ſhould entertain any correſpondence capable of diſturbing the tranquillity of Great-Britain, is willing to agree in concert with his Britannic majeſty, upon all proper methods for preventing ſuch abuſes, and removing

removing every ſubject of diſcontent and jealouſy.

It is with the ſame deſign of ſhewing how far his majeſty is indiſpoſed to tolerate ſo great a raſhneſs, that an edict is iſſued againſt ſuch officers as preſumed to go out of the kingdom without permiſſion.

If it be true, agreeable to what is advanced by the earl of Stair, that England, repoſing itſelf upon the faith of treaties, was diſarmed and defenceleſs; it is not leſs ſo, that no perſon whatſoever can ſay with truth, that his moſt Chriſtian majeſty has, in any degree, ſerved himſelf of that conjuncture to the prejudice of Great-Britain; or, that he has given any ſuccour to the Chevalier de St. George. It is known, on the contrary, that his royal highneſs prevented and ſuppreſſed ſeveral military undertakings in favour of the ſaid Chevalier, ſoſoon as he was made acquainted with them; and nothing can better demonſtrate, that the Chevalier de St. George was not aſſiſted by France, than his wretched condition when in Scotland, entirely deſtitute of every thing that was neceſſary to ſuch an undertaking.

His majeſty ſees, with pleaſure, the marks of a perfect harmony between the king of Great-Britain and his parliament, as the moſt certain foundation both of that prince's glory and the happineſs of his ſubjects. His royal highneſs feels the ſame ſatisfaction; and, deſiring very truly, to preſerve his Britannic ma-

jeſty's friendſhip, will omit nothing that may demonſtrate how ſenſible he is of the proofs he has received of it.

His royal highneſs will do nothing, either directly or indirectly, that may influence the duke of Loraine to refuſe any demands which the king of Great-Britain may make, with relation to the Chevalier de St. George's reſiding in his dominions; but will be ſincerely glad to ſee his majeſty ſatisfied in this particular; perſuading himſelf, on the other hand, that the king of England will not deſire him to proffer ſuch demands to a prince over whom his moſt Chriſtian majeſty has no authority, as the regent would be at a loſs to alledge proper grounds for ſo doing; and which, on the other hand, would add no weight to the powerful inſtances of his Britannic majeſty.

Theſe anſwers are too exact and clear, not to ſhew the king's real diſpoſitions; and, it is to be hoped they will alſo diſplay the deſire his royal highneſs has ever entertained to preſerve his Britannic majeſty's friendſhip, and to contribute all that can depend upon his particular care, and the authority he exerciſes, to eſtabliſh and preſerve a ſtrict union and perfect intelligence between his moſt Chriſtian majeſty and the king of Great Britain.

This language was very agreeable to the court of England; and, to ſpeak truth, the expulſion of the pretender out of the dominions

nions of France, as well as an edict publiſhed about the ſame time, prohibiting the French ſubjects to trade in the South-Sea, were two points of ſuch importance to Great-Britain that they might juſtly ſerve for a foundation to that friendſhip and confidence which at that time ſprung up between the two nations. To balance the excluſion of the French from the South-Sea, the regent publiſhed a declaration permitting them to trade to Africa.

From theſe Memorials, and the whole of his other conduct, the duke of Orleans, who, by a dexterous management, had got himſelf declared regent during the king's minority, conceived the greateſt opinion of him. The whole court admired him without envy, they dreaded him without hatred, and endeavoured to ſooth him with the moſt artful policy; but there was nothing could make him, in the leaſt, to depart from the intereſt of his country, or do any thing that had a tendency to ſully the honour of the ſtation in which he was placed: and here it may not be improper to give an inſtance of it, that ſo the character of the earl of Stair may be illuſtrated from an example.

One day the regent, attended with the moſt ſplendid retinue, went in his coach to pay him a viſit; which his excellency being informed of, prepared for his reception. The coach halted at the gate; and, when the earl of Stair came out of his apartment, the regent roſe up, partly alighted from his coach, ſet one foot on

the ground, and kept the other fixed on the ſtep. His excellency, in the mean time, was advancing out of his gate; but, obſerving the poſture the regent was in, he ſtopped ſhort; then turned about, and walked three or four times backward and forward, and at laſt aſked one of the attendants, Whether his royal highneſs was come to viſit him as his Britannic majeſty's ambaſſador, or as earl of Stair? To which receiving no anſwer, he replied,

"If he comes to ſee lord Stair, I ſhall reckon it my greateſt honour to receive any one officer of the crown, much more the duke-regent, at the door of his coach; but, if he comes to viſit the ambaſſador of my auguſt and royal maſter, I think I ſhould be unworthy the truſt repoſed in me, if I went further than I have done."

This being told the regent, he re-entered his coach, and afterwards cauſed ſignification to be made to his excellency, that he was not deſirous of ſeeing him at court; and, for ſome months, he actually withdrew, till, hearing of the regent's fitting out a ſtrong ſquadron at Toulon, which the court of Britain could not look on with indifference, he went to court; but in ſuch a manner as argued a conſummate policy, as well as an ardent zeal for the welfare of his country.

He ſet out in a private chaiſe, and, being met by chancellor d' Huxelles, who was very pomp-

pompouſly attended, and paid his compliments to his excellency in the moſt elegant manner, and invited him to take a ſeat in his coach. His lordſhip thanked him for his civility, but told him, That he wanted not coaches, but was at preſent diverting himſelf as the earl of Stair. He then parted from him, and came to the court; but the guards obſerving him, declared he had no authority to be there; "Oh!" ſays he, though the Britiſh ambaſſador be debarred acceſs, yet the lord Stair is not."

On this he was allowed to come in; and, having paſſed the firſt guard, he haſtened thro' the others, and then immediately entered the chamber of preſence, where the king and regent were ſtanding amidſt a vaſt number of nobility, gentry, foreign ambaſſadors and general officers.

No ſooner did his highneſs obſerve the earl of Stair than he withdrew to an inner chamchamber, whither he was followed by his lordſhip, the company ſtanding aſide to let him paſs; and, as he entered the room, he told him, That, if at preſent he denied him audience, perhaps, in time, he might be glad to have one in his turn. On this the regent and he converſed two hours; during which time he informed him of his intrigues with the czar, with the king of Sweden, and with cardinal Alberoni, for bringing in the pretender. His royal highneſs obſerving, that nothing, though ever ſo ſecretly tranſacted, could be

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kept up from ſo prying an ambaſſador, and, that one half of the French nation were, thro' poverty, become ſpies upon the other, made a merit of diſcovering the whole to his Britannic majeſty.

Tho' Philip V. grandſon of Spain, was, by the treaty of Utrecht, allowed to reign peaceably upon the ruins of the Spaniſh monarchy; yet neither he, nor his miniſters, being content with the treaty obtained, they endeavoured to better themſelves by intrigues, and to procure by craft, what by force of arms was impracticable. Cardinal Alberoni, the then Spaniſh miniſter, knew very well, that, though the emperor, by the late treaty, was put in poſſeſſion of Sicily and Flanders, and ſecured in his other vaſt dominions, was yet ſo far drained of his treaſure, by the laſt war, as to have no great ſtomach for a rupture, he judged the ſame of the other powers engaged; and, thinking that Great Britain had got too advantageous terms at the laſt general pacification, his aim was, to bring in a king upon her, who would be apt to relinquiſh every advantage in gratitude for the favours done him.

But as Spain was very unequal for accompliſhing ſo great a project, the church politician thought of a tool from another quarter, and that was Charles XII. of Sweden, with the czar of Muſcovy, whom he inceſſantly laboured to reconcile. The former was eaſily brought into the ſcheme, from a proſpect of regaining

regaining Bremen and Verden, and, by means of the czar, of conquering an equivalent for the provinces he was obliged to cede to him; and the czar was again allured with the bait of having his daughter married to the imaginary monarch, and of having a beneficial trade with Britain into the ports of his new conquered provinces: however, it is not to be preſumed, that either the Swediſh or the Ruſſian court would have gone ſo ſoon into the propoſal, if ſome Engliſh and Scots gentlemen had not repaired, after the rebellion, into their dominions; more inflamed, after the defeats at Sheriff-muir and Preſton, with an inclination for war, attributing their diſaſters in thoſe places entirely to fatality. The repreſentation of the rebels, and the gold of Peru remitted from Madrid, were very powerful arguments with the two enterpriſing monarchs; whoſe miniſters now met upon the overtures of peace, and for bringing about the cardinal's propoſal.

Baron Goertz, who was among the ableſt ſtateſmen in Europe, had twice an interview with the czar at the Hague about it; and, having informed him that he had got conſiderable ſums from the diſaffected in England, for buying ſhips and ammunition for invading Scotland, the Muſcovite was ſo well pleaſed, that he went in perſon to Paris, on the 7th of May, where an entertainment of eight thouſand diſhes was prepared; and, under pretext of viſiting the academy, arſenals, the chambers

bers of rarities, and every thing that might excite the attention of the curious, he conferred with the regent upon the intended ſcheme. His royal highneſs, though ever deſirous of having a king fixed in Britain by French influence, ſeemed not quite ſatisfied with it, either from an unwillingneſs to expend more treaſure in favour of a fugitive, or becauſe he thought, that the Spaniſh gold, with the Ruſſian and Swediſh arms, were ſufficient to bring about the deſign. The conference with the czar, though very ſecret, was, by the regent's ſecretary, communicated to the Britiſh ambaſſador, who directly acquainted his court, where ſuch meaſures were taken, by ſtationing the ſhips and quartering the forces, as rendered the ſcheme impracticable; and, at the ſame time, a letter from the Swediſh ambaſſador, count Gyllenbourgh, to his brother Guſtavus, then ambaſſador in France, having fallen into his lordſhip's hands, it was tranſmitted to the Britiſh court at London, where count Gyllenbourgh was arreſted, and moſt of his papers ſeized, in which were many letters from and to baron Goertz. From theſe it appeared plainly, that an invaſion was deſigned; and, indeed, the ſame might have taken place, had it not been for the ſeaſonable intelligence given by the earl of Stair.

But theſe were not the only artempts in favour of the unhappy fugitive, that were defeated through his means: but he likewiſe projected the Quadruple alliance, offenſive and

and defenſive, between his Britannick majeſty, the emperor, the Moſt Chriſtian king, and the States General of the United Provinces, the better to baffle the deſigns of the court of Madrid, who now regaled the Pretender; and, in hopes of a powerful diverſion in Hungary, attacked the emperor, and fomented diſturbances in the Britiſh dominions. For, having formed a deſign of ſeizing the iſland of Sicily, they fitted out a fleet for that purpoſe, and, in July 1718, maſtered moſt part of the places in it; but while they were buſily employed in attacking the citadel of Meſſina, the Britiſh fleet came to their aſſiſtance, and, upon the eleventh of Auguſt, attacked twenty-ſeven Spaniſh ſhips of the line, off Cape Paſſaro, and, after an obſtinate engagement, took and ſunk moſt of them: and ſoon after the king of Sicily acceded to the Quadruple alliance. This ſtunning blow ſo much chagrined the court of Spain, that an order was iſſued out for ſeizing upon all the Britiſh merchant ſhips and effects in that kingdom. To redreſs which injuries, letters of marque and repriſals were given to the Britiſh ſubjects againſt thoſe of Spain, the third of October 1718; and, on the 17th, war was declared againſt her.

Indeed the court of Spain was, at this time, the moſt intriguing in Europe: for ſhe did not only endeavour to diſturb the tranquility of Britain, but likewiſe of France; for which purpoſe the prince of Cellemare, her ambaſſador at Paris, had entered into a contract with

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ſome mutineers, to whom he gave penſions: the deſign was, to take away the regent's life, to make an inroad into four provinces of the kingdom; to ſpanify the French miniſtry, and thus pave a way for uniting the whole, or at leaſt the greateſt part of the French dominions, with thoſe of the younger branch of the houſe of Bourbon. Which ſcheme might have taken place, and rekindled the general war, if the ſame had not been diſcovered in the following extraordinary manner.

Two noblemen, who were intruſted with a packet from the Spaniſh ambaſſador to cardinal Alberoni, containing a relation of the progreſs which he had made with ſome noblemen for accompliſhing the ſchemes of his court, entered a chaiſe, which broke down about two leagues from Paris. The poſtilion, obſerving them to take more care of their portmanteau than of themſelves (one of them ſaying, he would rather looſe one hundred thouſand piſtoles than it) after driving them to the end of the firſt ſtage, he haſtened to Paris, and gave immediate notice of what he had ſeen to the government. The council of the regency being inſtantly called, ſome were ſent off, with an order to ſtop them; which they actually did at Poictiers, and not only arreſted their perſons, but ſent their portmanteau to Paris; in which were found the plaineſt marks of a conſpiracy. The ſame night (the 28th of November) ſeveral perſons of diſtinction were ſeized and ſent to the Baſtile; and the

the Spaniſh ambaſſador was commanded to leave the kingdom.

The abbot du Bois wrote a circular letter to ſeveral miniſters reſiding at the French court, and particularly to the earl of Stair, acquainting him with the motives which induced them to take this ſtep with regard to the prince de Cellamere, by whoſe letters it was plainly ſeen, that he was inciting the king's ſubjects to a revolution, and that he had formed a plan to deſtroy the tranquility of the kingdom; and then concluded, in terms which both diſcovered his reſpect to the Britiſh court, and a perſonal eſteem for her ambaſſador.

Soon after this, a declaration of war was made by France againſt Spain; and, though the ſame was looked upon rather as fictitious than real, yet the burning of ſix new men of war upon the ſtocks at Port Paſſage, and the taking of ſome towns, put the matter of France's being in earneſt beyond all poſſibility of doubt. And now Spain, being embarraſſed with the two moſt powerful ſtates in Europe, had recourſe to art for extricating herſelf; ſhe was not only deprived of a reſource from the States General, from whom ſhe hoped for aſſiſtance in ſhips, but the perſon whom ſhe moſt truſted, viz. Charles XII. of Sweden, had been ſuddenly taken off at Fredericksſhall, on the 30th of November.

There was hardly a ſingle ſtep taken for the old Chevalier, that eſcaped the Lyncean eye of

of the earl of Stair; for, from the month of June till the end of October, he was making the moſt preſſing inſtances to the regent, that the duke of Ormond, who had reſided, during that time, in the neighbourhood of Paris, might not be tolerated in France. This coming to the ears of Cardinal Alberoni, he invited him to come to Madrid; where he was let into the ſcheme agreed on betwixt France and Spain, and the king of Sweden, for making an invaſion on Great Britain, as ſoon as he had reduced Fredericksſhall, while the duke of Ormond ſhould make an attempt upon Ireland with eight thouſand men, that were to ſail with him from the port of Biſcay. All this being diſcovered, by intercepting the prince of Cellamare's packets, the earl of Stair exerted himſelf to the utmoſt, in order to diſcourage the deſign, and ſent ſuch accounts of his procedure as aſtoniſhed the king, and made him admire the depth of his penetration. Every thing was put in the beſt poſture of defence, both in Britain and Ireland, where ten thouſand pounds were ſet upon the head of the duke of Ormond.

So many great actions, ſo conſtant a run of glorious ſucceſs in his negotiations, a reputation ſo full, and ſo entire, appeared the ſweeteſt and pleaſanteſt fruit of ſo much toil: for indeed it may be ſaid, that he could have no more honours, ſince he was dignified, in a manner, with all the crowns that could be fixed upon the head of a ſubject; but that which

which is ordinarily the bound and limit of other heroes, was only the way and the mean for ours to arrive at a higher pinnacle of greatneſs. Thus providence, by veſting in him ſo many illuſtrious employments, intereſting him in ſo many different events, and making him the inſtrument of ſo many pieces of ſervice to his country, prepared him, as it were, a maſter, in the knowledge of the Britiſh intereſt, to the great king George, that wiſeſt of ſtateſmen, whom here I may call invincible; nor, indeed, muſt we think, that his ſtudies and his experience could be better employed than in giving a leſſon to ſo acute a ſcholar: but what cannot a great maſter do, when he finds a genius of the firſt order to form? Scarce had the earl of Stair given his firſt advices, till he found it out of his power to inſiſt upon others, being prevented by the quick-ſightedneſs, by the penetration, by the happy and wiſe impetuoſity of the courage and conduct of ſo great a king; and, as people obſerve, the thunderbolt, coming almoſt in a moment within the body of the cloud, to burn, to blaze, to burſt, and to overturn; ſo the firſt fires of a military ardour, or of a political zeal, are ſcarce kindled in the heart of the king, when they burn, flame, and break through all. Britain and Ireland are put in a poſture of defence; the councils of the houſe of Bourbon are overturned by the policy of the Britiſh ambaſſador; terror ſeizes upon France

France; and a ſurpriſing admiration paſſes from one end of Europe to the other.

But, though Spain was unable now to execute her deſigns, yet the reſtleſs ſpirit of the cardinal ſtill fomented the tumultuous paſſions of the Britiſh rebels, who had retired, partly by his invitation, and partly without any, into the dominions of his maſter. The invitation was kept a perfect ſecret, even at Madrid itſelf; but, as there were ſome people about the duke of Ormond, who, being elate with the proſpect of the expedition, they thought proper to communicate the deſign to their correſpondents at Paris; and theſe having ſhewn their letters to one M'Donald, a lieutenant-colonel in the Iriſh brigades, he handed them about, till at laſt they came to the ears of the Britiſh ambaſſador, who ſent captain Gardiner expreſs, with an account, that the preparations of the Spaniards, at Cadiz, were certainly deſigned againſt South Britain; and that their fleets would put to ſea the 7th or 8th of March.

This piece of intelligence was communicated by the king to his parliament; who, after aſſuring him of their utmoſt efforts to defeat ſo extraordinary an attempt, the forces were every where in motion, and perhaps would have had more work to do, notwithſtanding the German troops lay ready at Oſtend to embark to the aſſiſtance of his Britannick majeſty,

jeſty, if the enemies of their country had not met with a check from another quarter.

The duke of Ormond, with five thouſand land forces on board, having proviſion, ammunition, and every other neceſſary, embarked for the Weſt of England; but meeting with a ſtorm off Cape Finiſterre, they were ſeparated: his grace, with moſt of the Engliſh and Iriſh officers, were obliged to put back to Cadiz, while the earls of Marſhal and Seaforth, and the marquis of Tullibardin, purſued their voyage, and landed at Kintail in the north of Scotland, on the fifteenth of April, with about four hundred Spaniſh troops. They were very uneaſy to know the fate of the duke of Ormond, and deferred moving from thence, till they ſhould hear what was become of his grace: but, before any certain accounts arrived of his diſappointment, general Wightman was in full march to diſperſe them, having with him two Swiſs and three Dutch battalions, one hundred and twenty dragoons, with about three hundred and fifty foot ſoldiers. He came up with them on the Pretender's birth-day, at the paſs of Glenſhiel; where the M'Kenzies were ſtationed on one ſide, the marquis of Tullibardin, with the laird of M'Douall, upon the other, and the Spaniards intrenched in their front, making, in all, one thouſand ſix hundred and fifty men. No ſooner did they enter the paſs, than, to their aſtoniſhment, the rebels, who lay concealed among the heath, alarmed them

them with their ſhot, and killed the colonel of a Dutch regiment upon the ſpot; which diſheartened the ſoldiers much, till a major led them on, with ſuch intrepidity, amidſt the fire of the enemy, that he even played upon the flagelet before them. General Wightman obſerving the matter, ordered ſome hand-grenadoes to be thrown in among them, which fired the heath, that was then very long, about their ears; and one of the ſplinters wounding Seaforth in the wriſt, his clan carried him off, and at the ſame time retired in the greateſt confuſion. As the general was unacquainted with the country, he ordered captain Monro of Culcairn, who was there with about eighty men of his brother's vaſſals, to purſue them; which he did with a ſurpriſing alacrity, and, knowing the ſteeps, he and they mounted them, under cover of ſome coehorns that were brought to bear upon the enemy, whom they purſued from one rock to another, till that brave officer was wounded. The rebels placed in the right of the paſs having given way, thoſe on the left made off full ſpeed, leaving the Spaniards, who now became an eaſy conqueſt; for they were all made priſoners of war without ſo much as drawing one drop of blood.

This was the laſt effort in favour of the old Pretender, during the reign of George I. againſt whom ſo many plots and conſpiracies were formed, but were as often baffled.

now

The refined policy of the earl of Stair was now become next to a proverb, and the people, as it were, bowed their knees before him as he went forth into the ſtreets; for the populace of France are very averſe to a war with the Britiſh nation. His houſe was a receptacle for the poor, and he generally had the moſt ſubſtantial diſhes prepared for them; yea, and he himſelf always uſed an Engliſh meal for his Sunday's dinner; to which were frequently invited many of the principal lords of the court, or ſome of the foreign ambaſſadors; who all agreed in the admiration of his perſon, the dexterity of his conduct, and politeneſs of his addreſs: and, indeed, this new blow, that had been given to the pretender's ſcheme, through his means, would, in a manner, have rendered him adored by the multitude, eſpeceially when they recollected the magnificence of his appearance, on the twenty-fifth of January, at his entry into Paris, to congratulate the king on his acceſſion to the throne; and, as the ſame was the moſt ſplendid ever ſeen on the like occaſion, we think it will not be improper to deſcribe it for the further entertainment of our readers.

The Order of his Entry.

1. THE coach of the chevalier de Sainctot, the introductor of ambaſſadors.

2. The coach of the marſhal d'Eſtrees, vice-admiral of France.

3. His excellency's under querry, at the head of thirty-ſix footmen in his excellency's livery.

4. One of his majeſty of Great-Britain's cabinet-couriers, or meſſengers, on horſe-back.

5. Six horſes led by ſix grooms, in the ſame livery as his excellency's footmen.

6. Twelve gentlemen on horſe-back.

7. His excellency's querry, or maſter of the horſe, on horſe-back.

8. Twelve pages, in his excellency's livery, on horſe-back.

9. The king's coach; in which was his excellency, the marſhal d'Eſtrees, and the chevalier de Sainctot.

10. The coaches of the princes and the princeſſes of the blood, and that of the abbot du Bois, miniſter and ſecretary of ſtate for foreign affairs.

11. Thirty paces behind followed two Swiſſers, in his excellency's livery, on horſe-back.

12. His excellecy's body-coach, with eight glaſſes, drawn by eight dapple-grey Frieſland horſes, and a footman on each ſide the coach.

13. His

13. His excellency's ſecond coach, drawn by eight mouſe-coloured Neapolitan horſes, and a footman on each ſide the coach.

14. His excellency's calaſh, drawn by eight bay-brown Spaniſh horſes, with black manes, and a footman on each ſide.

15. His excellency's fourth coach, drawn by eight bay-brown Daniſh horſes with black manes, and a footman on each ſide.

16. His excellency's fifth coach, drawn by eight black Frieſland horſes, and a footman on each ſide.

17. The coach of Mr. Crawford, ſecre-cretary to the ambaſſy of his majeſty of Great-Britain.

18. The coaches of ſeveral Engliſh lords and gentlemen who made up his excellency's train,

An Account of the Livery and Equipage.

His excellency's liveries, for his footmen, were of orange coloured Engliſh cloth, trimmed with velvet lace, blue, white, and crimſon, worked ſo as to repreſent his excellency's coat of arms betwixt two ſilver laces, the ſleeves and flaps covered with lace, and the ſhoulder-knot embroidered with ſilver and ſilk of the colour of the livery, adorned with tufts and lace of ſilver, with blue and white feathers, and cockades in their hats, their ſtockings of a cherry colour, with ſilver clocks;

their gloves embroidered with ſilver four inches deep, and their linnen trimmed with fine Flanders lace.

The ſix led horſes were the fineſt that eyes could ſee, mounted with ſaddles and houſing of different ſorts of velvet, with different embroideries of gold and ſilver of the richeſt ſort, with their capariſons in gold and ſilver embroideries ſuited to the liveries, and in their compartments, the arms, cyphers, and devices of his excellency.

His querry, or maſter of the horſe, was mounted on a fine Spaniſh horſe, his equipage of yellow velvet, ſet off with fine ſilver fringes and lace, the houſing and holſters richly embroidered and embelliſhed in the ſame manner. The harneſſes of ſilver twiſt, ſet off with buckles and ornaments of maſſy ſilver.

The pages were clad in the fineſt orange coloured Engliſh cloth, trimmed with broad ſilver lace, pinked and richly wrought; their ſleeves were faced with blue velvet with the ſame lace; their ſhoulder knots embroidered with ſilver wire, and adorned with tufts of ſilver; their hats laced with Spaniſh point-lace; their feathers white, and their cockades yellow; their gloves had ſilver fringes, and were embroidered on the back. They all rode on Engliſh horſes, their ſaddles and houſings trimmed with ſilver and gold lace and embroidery; the bridle-reins of ſilver twiſt, and all the furniſhing of the horſes of maſſy ſilver.

His

His excellency's gentlemen, and under querry, were all clad alike, in fine aſh coloured cloth, laced all over with a fine large open ſilver lace; their hats laced with ſilver, and their cockades and feathers yellow; their gloves, and the harneſs of their horſes, the ſame with thoſe of the pages.

The two Swiſſers, in his excellency's livery, had rich ſhoulder-belts covered with ſilver-lace and embroidery; their gloves had ſilver fringes, their ſwords ſilver handles, with large ſilver pommels, and knots of ſilver ribbon; their hats were laced, and their cockades and feathers white and blue. They rode on horſes whoſe harneſſes were trimmed with lace, fringes and embroidery.

His excellency's body-coach had eight glaſſes, was lined with Perſian crimſon velvet, and the ground-work of gold. Never was a more magnificent one ſeen, either for the fineneſs of the ſculpture and gilding, or the richneſs of its other ornaments. The roof within was adorned with a large cartiſane of the beſt gold in Paris, which went round and formed the cantonements. In the middle there was a great roſe likewiſe of a gold cartiſane, and in the centre a rich ornament formed like a wreathed tower. Round the roof there was a large gold tuft, garniſhed with fringes, ſpinage-ſeed, and jeſſamy flowers. The curtains were of Genoa crimſon damaſk, richly embroidered with gold, laced, and garniſhed round with golden valences, adorned in the ſame manner. The

body of the coach without, except the peſts, which were all of ſculpture, was the ſame with the inner roof, and of crimſon velvet, covered with very rich cartiſanes of gold, with ornaments in moſaic work of gold wire. On the pannels, before and behind, and of the boot, were the arms of the king of Great-Britain in gold embroidery of large emboſſed work; and in thoſe of the four corners were the devices of the orders of the garter, and St. Andrew embroidered in the ſame manner. The velvet on the outer roof is almoſt quite covered by the ornaments of the cartiſane and the golden embroidery formed in the compartments. Inſtead of eight apples there were infants carved and joined two and two, holding in one hand the arms of Great-Britain, and in the other a plume of feathers of gold wire mixed with crimſon flowers; and, inſtead of apples in the middle, there were four infants carved and joined, ſupporting the imperial crown of Great Britain. The corniſh was adorned with a thick gold cordon, or ridge, richly embroide ed; which, inſtead of nails, formed roſes of gold in relievo; from which hung down a magnificent fringe in form of ſpinage-ſeed, and jeſſamy round the roof. All the braces and ornaments of the wheels or ſprings were richly gilt with ground gold. The braces, croſs, and traverſes, were covered with crimſon velvet and open gold lace. The harneſs was alſo adorned with crimſon velvet, and ſet off with buckles and other ornaments of gilt braſs. The

rims

rims were of twiſts of gold crimſon ſilk. The buttons, or knobs, were embelliſhed with ſeeds of ſpinnage and jeſſamy in gold. The plumes of the horſes were of very fine feathers adorned with gold in a new and very particular manner; and in the middle of them there was a garland of crimſon flowers. The coachman's box was covered with the ſame velvet as the inſide of the coach, with a rich gold fringe in form of ſpinnage-ſeed and jeſſamy.

The ſecond ſurpaſſed all that had ever yet been ſeen for the beauty and curioſity of the ſculpture, wherein the workman had in a manner outdone himſelf. This coach had ſeven glaſſes: it was lined with a crimſon Genoa damaſk, with large gold flowers, ſet off with thick gold fringes. The outſide was rich ſculpture, partly ſilvered and partly gilt, with ornaments of flowers in their natural colours. The outſide of the roof was covered with ornaments of braſs ſilvered and gilt, and ended with a baſket of flowers to the life. From this baſket came eight ſtrings which carried great buttons of ſilver and gold under each of the apples that adorned the corniſh. The painting of the pannels were ornaments, with the arms, cyphers, and devices of his excellency the ambaſſador. That on the back repreſented the dawn of the day expelling darkneſs, the ſymbol of truth, which diſperſes error and falſe prejudice. The braces, falſe braces, croſſes, traverſes, harneſſes, and reins, were of yellow velvet, adorned with lace, buttons, buckles,

&c. of silver. The horses plumes were of white feathers garnished with gold, and yellow ones with silver; from the middle of each of these came a garland of gold and silver mixed with flowers of all sorts of colours. The coachman's box was covered with the same sort of velvet that lined the coach, with gold fringe round it.

The fourth is a coach with seven glasses, covered within and without with crimson velvet, enriched with cartisanes and fringes of gold. The sculpture of the body without was gilt at bottom, and richly painted in all the pannels with the attributes of peace, set off with three rows of gilt nails; and, on the roof, was eight apples of brass gilt of a cherry colour. The braces, &c. were of Russia leather, pinked and embroidered; and all the braces of the finest model, and gilt of a cherry colour. The coachman's box was like the furniture within, with rich gold fringes.

The coachmen and postilions of all the coaches were clad in his excellency's livery, like those already mentioned.

All the horses for the coaches and saddles, had their manes adorned with rich knots and ribbons mixed with tufts of gold and silver.

The earl of Stair being come from la Raquette, where he was received by the marshal d' Estrees and the chevalier de Sainctot, to the hotel for the entertainment of ambassadors extraordinary, he was complimented, in the king's

king's name, by the marquis de Geſores, firſt gentleman of the bedchamber; on the part of the ducheſs of Berry, by the chevalier de Hautefort, her maſter of the horſe; on the part of madame, by the marquis de Simiane, her maſter of the horſe: on the part of the duke of Orleans, by the marquis de Simiane, firſt gentleman of his bedchamber; and, on the part of the ducheſs of Orleans, by the marquis de St. Pierre, her maſter of the horſe. He was lodged in that hotel, and entertained, the three following days by the king's officers.

On the ſeventh, the prince de Lambeſc, and the chevalier de Sainctot, introductor of ambaſſadors, went in the king's coach to the hotel of ambaſſadors extraordinary, to receive the earl of Stair, and conducted him to his firſt public audience of his majeſty; on which occaſion his excellency made the following ſpeech to the king:

SIR,

THE king of Great-Britain, my maſter, ſent me, his ambaſſador-extraordinary to your majeſty, to congratulate you on your acceſſion to the crown; and to aſſure you, That there is nothing he more ardently deſires, than to maintain and improve that perfect friendſhip which is ſo happily eſtabliſhed with your majeſty; and to confirm and increaſe the union

and mutual confidence between the two nations which is ſo beneficial to each. As long as theſe nations are united, no foreign force can endanger the conſtitution of either ſtate; and their union may naturally be of long duration. They have nothing to claim one of the other, no pretenſions to be decided between them.

Nature hath bounded Great-Britain by the ſea; ſhe ſeeks nothing that belongs to her neighbour; ſhe naturally finds her advantage in the public quiet and tranquility; her intereſt, as well as the inclination and wiſdom of her king, diſpoſe her to deſire the peace and happineſs of her neighbours, and to contribute thereto.

Your majeſty is poſſeſſed of the fineſt and moſt powerful kingdom of Europe: it wants nothing but quiet and tranquility to render it the moſt happy and the moſt flouriſhing.

Theſe two potent nations, ſo happily ſituated, united by intereſt ſo natural, and by treaties ſo wiſely concerted, will not only be happy in the conſtitutions of each ſtate, as long as their union laſt, but will communicate the happineſs they enjoy to their neighbours, and to all Europe.

The treaty lately made ſets out ſo clearly the bounds between the chief powers; ſo carefully provides againſt all occaſions for war, that human prudence can foreſee in the courſe of time; and ſettles a guaranty of ſuch a nature, and of ſuch force, for the public tranquility,

quility, that we have ſtrong reaſon to flatter ourſelves, no power will attempt to diſturb it; and your majeſty will have the ſatisfaction and the glory to ſee, in the beginning of your auſpicious reign, France and all Europe re-eſtabliſhed; which have been ſo cruelly torn in pieces by ſuch very long and deſtructive wars.

That in which your majeſty is at preſent engaged jointly with your allies, will be of ſhort continuance: it is impoſſible that the ungoverned paſſion, and blind ambition, of particular perſons, ſhould long withſtand the forces of the greateſt powers in Europe, united for eſtabliſhing the public tranquility on laſting and ſolid foundations. The public peace and welfare will ſoon ſucceed to theſe tranſient alarms.

The king, my maſter, wiſhes your majeſty may enjoy, in a long courſe of years, you and your deſcendants, uninterrupted fruits of that welfare; and that the two nations, as well as the kings, may ever be united, as well during his reign as thoſe of his poſterity.

As I have had the happineſs to ſee thoſe engagements formed, which unite the king my maſter with your majeſty, I ſhall think myſelf very fortunate, if by my endeavours, I may any way contribute to the keeping up of this happy union, and to the rendering it more perfect between the two nations.

The anſwer returned by his majeſty was to this effect: That he was extremely pleaſed with the good intelligence between himſelf and the king of Great Britain; that he was ſatisfied it was very beneficial to the two nations; that his excellency might aſſure the king, that, on his part, he would do all that was in his power for continuing and improving the friendſhip and good correſpondence with the king, and between the nations; and that the choice which the king had made of his excellency was very agreeable to him.

From this grand appearance made by the earl of Stair, one may judge of the greatneſs of his ſoul, and of the honour he did to the Britiſh nation during his miniſtry. He inſiſted upon an explicit anſwer to his memorials relating to the intended port of Mardyke, before he aſſumed any character, with that firmneſs and dignity which ever diſtinguiſhed him in battles, courts, and ſenates, in favour and diſgrace.

He ſo far ſerved his country, as three times to defeat the Pretender's projects; and, extending his generoſity to the whole of Europe, he projected the Quadruple alliance, which was the means of pacifying the troubles, both in the north and the ſouth.

When the emperor and the king of Spain were at war, he formed the plan of a treaty between his royal maſter and the Moſt Chriſtian king; by which the contending powers were brought to an accommodation. He carried

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on that noble conteſt with the princes of the blood, on the ceremonial to be obſerved to ambaſſadors of the firſt order, and brought it to that iſſue which has continued the rule ever ſince. His vigilance and circumſpection could not be deceived, and his preſence of mind, ſpirit, and reſolution, ſuch as could not be daunted, overawed, or diſcompoſed. His addreſs and deportment were the admiration of the court, which had, till then, the vanity to think, thoſe delicate flowers were only to be found in their own ſoil. His abilities had ſuch an aſcendant over the regent, that, being once publicly aſked, what part his royal highneſs would take in the troubles of the north? he anſwered, What the Britiſh ambaſſador pleaſes.

So many grand occaſions and honourable appearances proved the means of incumbering his perſonal eſtate, which, with the debts he had contracted in gaming, was the cauſe of his being recalled. Upon his return, the king declared himſelf ſo well pleaſed with his conduct, that he would have created him a duke, if he had not been prevented by law. The true ſenſe which the king had of his fidelity, was the greateſt and moſt illuſtrious eulogium of his virtue: the people ecchoed back the praiſes of their king, while the whole of his dominions reſounded with applauſe for his conduct; ſeveral prints were publiſhed, and every one took a pride to have his picture by them.

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He continued all that king's reign as one of his privy council; was preſent at the moſt ſolemn tranſactions; and, on his late majeſty's aſcending the throne, he was received into the ſame confidence.

In April, 1730, he was made lord admiral of Scotland, which, with his other poſts, he held till April 1733, when he fell into diſgrace at court, upon the following occaſion:

In the winter of the year 1732, there was brought into parliament a ſcheme for changing the duties on tobacco and wine, and bringing them under the laws of Exciſe, for preventing of frauds in the revenue, which ſome people at the helm loudly complained of. This affair was diſliked by the trading part of the nation, who made ſo great a noiſe, that in January the tobacconiſts of London, at a general meeting, agreed to act in concert with the committee appointed by the citizens, merchants, and traders of London, and, by all juſt and lawful means, to oppoſe any new exciſe, or extention of the exciſe laws, under any pretence whatſoever: ſeveral corporations earneſtly recommended the ſame thing to their repreſentatives; and, in February, the city of London laid their grievances before their four repreſentatives. Notwithſtanding which, the ſcheme was propoſed, and the motion, with regard to tobacco, was made, on the fourteenth of March, in a grand committee; and, after a warm debate, the queſtion was carried, two hundred and ſixty-ſix againſt two hundred

hundred and five; and afterwards, March ſixteen, in the houſe, by two hundred and forty-nine againſt one hundred and eighty-nine, and a bill was ordered to be brought in accordingly; which being done upon the fourth of April, and read for the firſt time, the ſheriffs, with ſeveral of the aldermen, common-council-men, eminent merchants and traders of the city, went in their coaches to Weſtminſter-hall, petitioning to be heard by their council againſt the bill, which was appointed to be read a ſecond time on the tenth of April; but their petition, upon a queſtion, was rejected, two hundred and fourteen againſt one hundred and ninety-ſeven. Other petitions were alſo brought in, when ſir Robert Walpole moved, that the bill might not be read till the twelfth of June; which being agreed to, the ſcheme dropped; on which great rejoicings were made.

Among the number of thoſe who oppoſed it was the earl of Stair, not, indeed, from any diſlike he had to the then prime miniſter, but from a proſpect of the diſmal conſequences that might ariſe, from a people for whoſe laws and liberties more martyrs have ſuffered, than for thoſe of any other nation; and it being demanded, by the late queen, why he did ſo; his anſwer was, "That he wiſhed her royal family better than to agree to ſuch a project." A little time after he reſigned all his places into his majeſty's hands; as did the lord Cobham, the duke of Bolton, the earl

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of Cheſterfield, the earl of Burlington, and many others.

In the next ſeſſion, which was the laſt of that parliament, he voted with all the candour and integrity that became ſo great a man, not regarding the ſmiles or frowns of a court; and when a motion was made in the houſe of lords to petition his majeſty to inform them of the perſons that had adviſed him to remove ſo many eminent and truly brave men, he behaved with a moderation that became the greatneſs of his ſoul.

In June, 1734, he appeared at the elections; and, as the party who had ſided with ſir Robert Walpole in promoting the exciſe-ſcheme, had been at great pains to carry the elections of Scotland, he was the firſt to enter a proteſt againſt the method of their procedure, viz. that the military, who by act of parliament ought to be removed ſome miles from the place of election, were, nevertheleſs, under arms, at no further diſtance than half a mile; the dukes of Hamilton, Queenſberry, Montroſe, and Roxburgh, the marquis of Twedale, and ſeveral other lords, who mentioned the very peers who were afterwards choſen, as thoſe contained in the liſt named by the miniſter and ſent down by his agent, proteſted likewiſe. And the matter might have been carried a greater length, had not the late duke of Argyle, during the heat of their debate, told the meeting, that he ſaw many ſtrange faces in the room, and that he thought the

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ſame ſhould be cleared; on which ſeveral ladies, who had come in, withdrew, and were followed by the lords in the oppoſite intereſt: ſo that the court party, as it was called, entirely prevailed; and the petition given into parliament, complaining of the election, was afterwards refuſed.

From this time he applied himſelf to agriculture, which he underſtood to ſuch a degree, that he might be called the Virgil of the age; he employed about two hundred workmen every day, and was as much admired for his huſbandry at home, as he had been for his politeneſs at the court of Verſailles.

During his retirement from court, he was viſited by the nobility from all quarters; he correſponded with ſeveral generals abroad, and with ſome of thoſe noblemen in England who had reſigned at the ſame time with himſelf. He was moſt facetious in converſation, and entertained his company with ſuch diſcourſes as ſerved to inſtruct as well as to amuſe. When ſpeaking of the king of Poland, he attracted the admiration of all who heard him; and he has frequently declared, that he preferred hunting the ſtag at Warſaw, to the gallantries and amuſements of the court of Verſailles. His generoſity, here, was like the greatneſs of his ſoul, for never man beſtowed his favours with a better grace. One day a phyſician had come to his houſe, and his lordſhip judging, that, if he offered him money, it might be refuſed, contrived a way

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to make him a preſent: he went to his parlour, and wrote a line, which he gave to the doctor to deliver, at the ſame time apologizing for uſing the freedom with him, in the politeſt and moſt amiable manner; the gentleman told him, that his lordſhip's commands were only an honour to him, and with pleaſure they ſhould be obeyed. Upon his coming to Edinburgh, he inſtantly repaired to the perſon for whom the letter was directed, and delivered it to him; when, to his ſurpriſe, he was ſhewn the contents of it, which were as follow:

SIR,

PAY the bearer thirty guineas, which is but a ſmall compliment for his care of me; and place the ſame to the account of, ſir,

Your very humble ſervant,

STAIR.

It would be almoſt impoſſible to repreſent the whole of his amiable and generous actions. He was always a friend to the diſtreſſed; and, when ſtripped of all his employments, ſupported the dignity of a nobleman who had once proved an ornament to the Britiſh nation. But while he was encouraging huſbandry, and doing good to mankind, he was not unmindful of religion; for he went to church every Sunday. And here it may be obſerved, that, in France, his chapel was an aſylum to the

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Proteſtants, for when any of them were taken up for attending at it he was at the expence of a memorial to the regent, who directly gave them leave to act as they pleaſed. Thus he continued till the year 1741, when a change happened at court, to which he was called on the following occaſion:

The Britiſh merchants had long complained, that letters of marque had been iſſued out from the Spaniſh admiralty againſt the Britiſh ſhips, under pretence of ſearching for contraband goods and paſſports; numerous repreſentations were made upon this at Madrid, ſeveral conferences were held upon the ſubject; and at laſt a convention was ſigned, on the fourth of January 1739, in which Spain agreed to pay ninety-five thouſand pounds, to compenſate the loſſes of Great Britain. This affair might have been amicably terminated, had not the caal of diſſention been blown from another quarter. Spain muſtered up a claim of ſixty-eight thouſand pounds upon the African company concerned in the negroes, and refuſed to pay the ninety-five thouſand pounds, till the ſixty-eight thouſand pounds were deduced; nay, ſo high did they riſe in their demands, that Thomas Geraldino declared, his maſter would as ſoon part with his eyes, as with his right of viſiting ſhips in the American ſeas. But perhaps things had not ſo ſoon been carried to an extremity, if the Spaniſh ambaſſador had not informed his court of the diviſions in parliament, and that,

by

by ſome well-placed ſums, it was eaſy to get a majority which might obtain ſuch ſums as they pleaſed. This, with the biſhop of Rennes's declaration at Madrid, of the people being ripe for a revolution, inflamed the Spaniards the more, which made them ſeize the Britiſh ſhips wherever they could find them. On the twenty-third of October, 1739, war was declared againſt Spain; who followed, in her turn, on the eighth of November.

Admiral Vernon, who had been ſent to the Weſt Indies for protecting our trade, had taken Porto Bello on the twenty-ſecond of November, and received thirty thouſand piaſters as a ranſom for not pillaging the town. On the firſt of April he ſailed to Carthagena, whoſe outworks he took, and then ſailed victorious up to the harbour of the town, and debarked the land forces, under cover of the cannon from the ſhips; but a violent rain falling, which is mortal to our ſoldiers in thoſe parts, and the ladders being too ſhort, through an error in the mathematician who computed the height of the wall of fort St. Lazara, they were obliged to retire, after trying what bravery itſelf would do. Hence Spain roſe in her demands; and, being ſecretly aſſiſted by the French, ſhe was the more active in proſecuting her mighty projects.

About a year after the beginning of the war with Spain, an event happened, which, for eight years together, occaſioned the moſt melancholy ſcenes: the emperor Charles VI. died,

died, the ninth of October 1740; which day his eldeſt daughter, now empreſs, was proclaimed queen of Hungary and Bohemia, and archdutcheſs of Auſtria; her miniſters at the ſeveral courts of Europe notified her acceſſion, and ſupported the legality of what was done, from her claim, in conſequence of the will of Ferdinand I. and of the deed of Charles VI. himſelf, dated the twentieth of June 1722; wherein, with the unanimous voice of a general diet of the ſtates of Hungary, then met at Preſburg, an act was paſſed for ſettling the ſucceſſion of that crown on the female line of the houſe of Auſtria, with their deſcendants, in failure of male iſſue, according to the right of primogeniture. The queen's title was acknowledged by ſeveral princes; but the elector of Bavaria refuſed, and put in for it himſelf, founding his pretenſions to the Auſtrian ſucceſſion upon the ſame will of Ferdinand I. and deſcent from Charles V. as alſo, that he was married to the emperor Joſeph's daughter. The troops of his electorate marched, in September 1741, in ſupport of his claim, and were followed by thirty thouſand French forces, under pretence of ſecuring the electing an emperor according to the treaty of Weſtphalia, of which their king was the guarantee.

On the other hand, his Britannick majeſty ſupported the Pragmatick Sanction, and oppoſed the fixing on an emperor by the influence of the court of Verſailles; and, though her

Hungarian majeſty was attacked by the king of Pruſſia, who marched his troops, on the fourteenth of December, to protect Sileſia from inſults, and, at the ſame time, deprived of aſſiſtance from the Ruſſians, between whom and the Swedes a war had been juſt kindled; yet, under all theſe diſadvantages, was ſhe aſſiſted by the Britiſh nation.

During the winter of the year 1741, the armies were active abroad; Lintz, and a few other places were taken by the Auſtrians, who gained ſome advantages in the field, and extended into Bavaria itſelf. At home, the parliament was taken up with examining into the merits of elections; many of which being carried againſt ſir Robert Walpole, he reſigned his places into his majeſty's hands; on which a total change enſued in the miniſtry. A reſolution was taken for ſupporting the queen of Hungary, and reſtoring the balance of power, which muſt have been entirely deſtroyed, if the treaty of dividing the dominions of the houſe of Auſtria had ſucceeded, according to the propoſal of France. In conſequence of this reſolution, three hundred thouſand pounds were given her; a conſiderable body of Britiſh troops were ſent to Flanders, the command of which, as alſo of the Hanoverians and Heſſians, was given to the earl of Stair; who now began, like the ſun, after ſetting for a long night, to riſe with the brighter luſtre. In March 1742, he was made field-marſhal of his majeſty's forces, and ambaſſador-

baſſador-extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the States-general.

This ſudden riſe procured him the love of every true Briton; and the king, on ſeeing him, received him with a tenderneſs and affection which convinced all preſent, that his majeſty was inclined to remember the maxim of the wiſeſt of kings: viz. Not to forget his father's friend.

After this he was introduced to the prince of Wales, who behaved with that endearing ſweetneſs, which proclaimed him the life, the hopes, and the ornament of the Britiſh nation.

The whole court admired him; his old friends repaired to him, and thoſe he received with peculiar marks of gratitude and complaiſance. In a word, his former diſgrace made him ſhine the brighter; the poets of the time vied in ſinging his eulogium; and Britain reſounded with his praiſe, while Europe ſtood amazed, expecting ſome extraordinary event, upon the reſtoration of a degraded favourite, the fame of whoſe tranſactions had formerly ecchoed thro' their territories.

He directly applied himſelf to the management of the important buſineſs committed to him; and, knowing that he had to deal with the ambaſſadors of Spain, France, and the new emperor, he aſſiduouſly ſtudied their memorials, and made anſwer to them before he ſet out for Holland, where, on the tenth of April, five days after his arrival, being conducted to a public

public audience of their high mightineſſes, he made to them a very ſpirited harangue, which had the deſired effect.

This memorial was followed by another, of the eighteenth of Auguſt, in which the preſſing inſtances of the queen of Hungary, for aſſiſtance from his Britannic majeſty, againſt a powerful French army, were laid down, and the pitiful artifices of the French detected. To mention every tranſaction of this unequalled ſtateſman, would ſwell this article beyond the extent of ſo ſmall a volume; ſuffice it then to ſay, that the earl of Stair at length brought about a general pacification with the aforementioned nations, and ſeemingly to the ſatisfaction of all the parties concerned; but not till after the famous battle of Dettingen, where he, for the laſt time, diſtinguiſhed himſelf, in concert with king George II. as a general of undaunted bravery and intrepidity, added to the moſt conſummate wiſdom; to whoſe generalſhip and accompliſhments in the art military, the Engliſh nation owes the glory of that day. Soon after this action he petitioned to reſign, which being granted him, he again returned to the pleaſures of a country life; but, ever ready to ſerve his king and country; upon the breaking out of the late rebellion he repaired to court, and offered his ſervice to ſuppreſs it, which was gladly accepted, and he accompanied the duke of Cumberland to Edinburgh, driving the pretender and his rabble army before them. After

ter the ſuppreſſion of this inſurrection, he continued at court till the winter of year 1746, when he repaired to Scotland, finding himſelf in a languiſhing condition, and unfit for buſineſs. By the help of his phyſicians he was preſerved till about ten at night of the ſeventh of May, 1747, when he breathed out a life ſpent in as eminent ſervices for his country, as ever was that of a ſubject.

Thus died field-marſhal John earl of Stair, who was a nobleman of the rareſt abilities, equally fitted for the camp or the court; and how hard is it to ſay in which he excelled? A man of the ſtricteſt honour and veracity; great without pride, beautiful without vanity, juſt without rigour, wiſe without arrogance, bountiful without oſtentation; ſupporting the higheſt of dignity with a decency, humanity, and moderation, only to be found among the great, being poſſeſſed of every talent that could make a man great in himſelf, ſerviceable to his king, or an ornament to his country.

The earl of Stair was a man about ſix feet high, exceeding ſtrait and genteel in his body, which inclined to an agreeable ſlenderneſs; he was, perhaps, one of the handſomeſt men of his time, and remarkable, among the nobility, for his graceful mien and majeſtic appearance; his complexion was fair, but rather comely than delicate; his forehead was large and graceful, his noſe was ſtrait, and exquiſitely proportioned to his face; his eyes were exactly fitted to his features, being of a blue colour,

and full of ſweetneſs; his cheeks and chin every way delightful, while the other parts of his body were ſo fitly united, that one could not but admire and love him, the moment he appeared; for his amiable countenance, in which there was imprinted a natural ſmile, could not fail to inſpire the ſpectators with a warmth of affection not to be accounted for: theſe endowments of body were but indications of the beauties of the nobler part, and which, as he poſſeſſed them both in their higheſt perfection, it is imagined, that all true lovers of liberty will imitate the ſteps of him, who was the darling of his country, and whom human nature may ever boaſt of, for having produced ſo great a ſon.

THE

FEB

Aveline sculp

Henry Fielding Esqr.

THE LIFE OF

HENRY FIELDING.

HENRY FIELDING was born at Sharpham-park, in Somerſetſhire, near Glaſtonbury, on the twenty-ſecond of April, 1707.

His father, Edmund Fielding, ſerved in the wars under the duke of Marlborough, and arrived to the rank of lieutenant-general, at the latter end of George I. or the beginning of George II. His mother was the daughter of judge Gold, the grandfather of the preſent Sir Henry Gold, one of the barons of the Exchequer.

By theſe his parents he had four ſiſters, Catharine, Urſula, Sarah, and Beatrice; and one brother, Edmund, who was an officer in the marine ſervice. Sarah Fielding, his third ſiſter, is well known to the literary world by many elegant performances.

Our author's mother having paid her debt to nature, lieutenant-general Fielding married a ſecond time, and the iſſue of that marriage was ſix ſons, George, James, Charles, John, William, and Baſil; all dead except John, who is at preſent in the commiſſion of the

peace for Middleſex, Surry, Eſſex, and the liberties of Weſtminſter.

Henry Fielding received the firſt rudiments of his education at home, under the care of the reverend Mr. Oliver, of whom he has given a very humorous and ſtriking portrait in Joſeph Andrews, under the name of parſon Trulliber.

From Mr. Oliver's care he was removed to Eton ſchool, where he became acquainted with lord Lyttleton, Mr. Fox, Mr. Pitt, Sir Charles Hanbury Williams, the late Mr. Winnington, &c. When he left this great ſeminary, he was ſaid to be uncommonly verſed in the Greek and Latin claſſics; for both which he ever retained a ſtrong admiration.

From Eton he was ſent to Leyden, and there he ſtudied the civilians for about two years; but remittances failing, at the age of twenty, or thereabout, he returned from Leyden to London; where, though under age, he found himſelf his own maſter; from which ſource flowed all the inconveniencies that attended him throughout the remainder of his life. The brilliancy of his wit, the vivacity of his humour, and his high reliſh of ſocial enjoyment, ſoon brought him into requeſt with the men of taſte and literature, and with the voluptuous of all ranks. His finances were not equal to the frequent draughts made upon him by the extravagance which naturally followed. He was allowed, indeed, two hundred pounds a year

a year by his father; but, as he himſelf uſed to ſay, any body might pay it that would.

The fact was, general Fielding having married again ſoon after the death of our author's mother, had ſo large an increaſe of family, and that too ſo quick, that he could not ſpare any conſiderable diſburſements for the maintainance of his eldeſt ſon. Of this truth Henry Fielding was ſenſible; and he was therefore, in whatever difficulties he might be involved, never wanting in filial piety; which, his neareſt relations agree, was a ſhining part of his character.

Diſappointments, indeed, were obſerved to provoke him into occaſional peeviſhneſs, and ſeverity of animadverſion; but his general temper was remarkably gay, and, for the moſt part, overflowing into wit, mirth and good-humour.

As he diſdained all littleneſs of ſpirit, where ever he met with it in his dealings with the world, his indignation was apt to riſe; and, as he was of a penetrating diſcernment, he could always develope ſelfiſhneſs, miſtruſt, pride, avarice, intereſted friendſhip, the ungenerous, and the unfeeling temper, however plauſibly diſguiſed; and, as he could read them to the bottom, ſo he could likewiſe aſſault them with the keeneſt ſtrokes of ſpirited and manly ſatire. Diſagreeable impreſſions never continued long upon his mind; his imagination was fond of ſeizing every gay proſpect; and, in his worſt

adverſities, filled him with ſanguine hopes of a better ſituation. To obtain this, he flattered himſelf that he ſhould find his reſources in his wit and invention; and accordingly he commenced a writer for the ſtage in the year 1727, being then about twenty years of age.

His firſt dramatic piece ſoon after adventured into the world, and was called Love in Several Maſques. It immediately ſucceeded the Provoked Huſband, a play, which, for the continued ſpace of twenty-eight nights, received as great and as juſt applauſes as ever were beſtowed on the Engliſh ſtage. Notwithſtanding theſe obſtacles, Fielding's play was favourably received.

His ſecond play, the Temple Beau, appeared the year after. From the year 1727 to the end of 1736, almoſt all his plays and farces were written, not above two or three having appeared ſince that time; ſo that he produced about eighteen theatrical performances, plays and farces included, before he was quite thirty years old.

Though in the plan of his pieces he is not always regular, yet he is often happy in his diction and ſtile; and, in every groupe that he has exhibited, there are to be ſeen particular delineations that will amply recompenſe the attention beſtowed upon them. The comedy of the Miſer, which he has moſtly taken from Moliere, has maintained its ground upon the ſtage ever ſince it was firſt performed; and has the value of a copy from a great painter by an eminent hand.

If

If the comedy of Paſquin was reſtored to the ſtage, it would perhaps be a favourite entertainment with our audiences. It is ſaid, that the wit and humour of our modern Ariſtophanes, Mr. Fielding, whoſe quarry in ſome of his pieces, particularly the Hiſtorical Regiſter, was higher game than in prudence he ſhould have choſen, were principal inſtruments that occaſioned the law which ſubjected all new pieces to the inſpection of the licenſer.

His farces were almoſt all of them very ſucceſsful; and many of them are ſtill acted every winter with approbation. They were generally the production of two or three mornings. The Lottery, the Intriguing Chambermaid, and the Virgin Unmaſked, beſides the real entertainment they afford, had, on their firſt appearance, this additional merit, that they ſerved to make diſcoveries of that true comic genius which was then dawning forth in that celebrated actreſs Mrs. Clive.

So early as when he was at Leyden, Mr. Fielding made ſome efforts towards a comedy in the ſketch of Don Quixote in England. When he left that place, and ſettled in London, a variety of characters attracted his notice, and of courſe ſerved to ſtrengthen his favourite inclination: the inconſiſtencies that flow from vanity, from affectation, from hypocriſy, from pretended friendſhip, and, in ſhort, all the diſſonant qualities which are often whimſically blended together by the follies of men,

could not fail to ſtrike a perſon who had ſo fine a ſenſe of ridicule; and, accordingly, we find that he never ſeems ſo happy, as when he is developing a character made up of motley and repugnant properties.

To ſearch out and deſcribe objects of this kind, ſeems to have been the favourite bent of his mind; and, from his happy deſcription of the manners, he may juſtly be pronounced an admirable comic genius in the largeſt acceptation of the phraſe, implying humorous and pleaſant imitation of men and manners, whether in the way of fabulous narration, or of dramatic compoſition.

In the former ſpecies of writing lay the excellence of Mr. Fielding: in dramatic imitation he muſt be allowed to fall ſhort of the great maſters in that art. What the ingenious Mr. Hurd obſerves of Ben. Johnſon, may be juſtly applied to Fielding:

"His taſte for ridicule was ſtrong, but indelicate, which made him not over curious in the choice of his topics. His ſtyle in picturing his characters, though maſterly, was without that elegance of hand, which is required to correct and allay the force of ſo bold a colouring. Thus the byaſs of his nature leaning him to Plautus, rather than Terence, for his model, it is not to be wondered, that his wit is too frequently cauſtic, his raillery coarſe, and his humour exceſſive."

This

This want of refinement ſeems to have been principally owing to the woundings which every freſh diſappointment gave Fielding, before he was yet well diſciplined in the ſchool of life; and, perhops too, the aſperity of his muſe was not a little encouraged by the practice of two great wits, who had fallen into the ſome vein before him; I mean Wycherley and Congreve, who were not fond of copying the amiable part of human life.

In his ſtyle, Mr. Fielding derived an error from the ſame ſource; he ſometimes forgot that humour and ridicule were the two principal ingredients of comedy; and, like Congreve, he frequently aimed at decorations of wit, which do not appear to make any part of the ground, but ſeem rather to be embroidered upon it.

There is another circumſtance reſpecting the drama, in which Fielding's judgment ſeems to have failed him: the ſtrength of his genius certainly lay in fabulous narration, and he did not ſufficiently conſider, that ſome incidents of a ſtory which, when related, may be worked up into a deal of pleaſantry and humour, are apt, when thrown into action, to excite ſenſations incompatible with humour and ridicule.

To theſe cauſes of his failure in the province of the drama, may be added that ſovereign contempt he always entertained for the underſtandings of the generality of mankind. It was in vain to tell him, that a particular ſcene was dangerous on account of its coarſe-

neſs, or becauſe it retarded the general buſineſs with feeble efforts of wit; he doubted the diſcernment of his auditors, and ſo thought himſelf ſecured by their ſtupidity, if not by his own humour and vivacity. A very remarkable inſtance of this diſpoſition appeared when the comedy of the Wedding Day was put into rehearſal.

An actor, who was principally concerned in the piece, and, though young, was then, by the advantage of happy requiſites, an early favourite of the public, told Mr. Fielding, he was apprehenſive, that the audience would make free with him in a particular paſſage; adding, that a repulſe might ſo flurry his ſpirits as to diſconcert him for the reſt of the night, and therefore begged that it might be omitted. "No, d----mn 'em," replied the bard, "if the ſcene is not a good one, let them find that out."

Accordingly the play was brought on without alteration; and, juſt as had been foreſeen, the diſapprobation of the houſe was provoked at the paſſage before objected to; and the performer, alarmed and uneaſy at the hiſſes he had met with, retired into the Green-room, where the author was ſolacing himſelf with a bottle of champaign. He had by this time drank pretty plentifully, and cocking his eye at the actor, while ſtreams of tobacco trickled down from the corner of his mouth, "What's the matter, Garrick," ſays he, "what are they hiſſing now?" "Why, the ſcene that I begged

begged you to retrench; I knew it would not do; and they have ſo frightened me, that I ſhall not be able to collect myſelf again the whole night." "Oh! d-mn 'em," replies the author, "they have found it out, have they?"

If we add to the foregoing remarks an obſervation of his own; namely, that he left off writing for the ſtage, when he ought to have begun; and, together with this, conſider his extreme hurry and diſpatch, we ſhall be able fully to account for his not bearing a more diſtinguiſhed place in the rank of dramatic writers.

It is apparent, that, in the frame and conſtitution of his genius there was no defect, but ſome faculty or other was ſuffered to lie dormant, and the reſt, of courſe, were exerted with leſs efficacy: at one time we ſee his wit ſuperſeding all his other talents; at another, his invention runs riot, and multiplies incidents and characters in a manner repugnant to all the received laws of the drama. Generally his judgment was very little conſulted; and, indeed, how could it be otherwiſe? When he had contracted to bring on a play, or a farce, he would go home rather late from a tavern, and would, the next morning, deliver a ſcene to the players written upon the papers which wrapped up the tobacco in which he ſo much delighted.

Though it was the lot of Henry Fielding to write always with a view to profit, he derived

but ſmall aids towards his ſubſiſtence from the treaſurer of the play-houſe. One of his farces he has printed as it was damned at the theatre royal in Drury-lane; and that he might be more generous to his enemies than they were willing to be to him, he informs them, in the general preface to his Miſcellanies, that, for the Wedding Day, though acted ſix nights, his profits from the houſe did not exceed fifty pounds.

A fate not much better attended him in his earlier productions: but the ſeverity of the public, and the malice of his enemies, met with a noble alleviation from the patronage of the late duke of Richmond, John duke of Argyll, [the late duke of Roxborough, and many perſons of diſtinguiſhed rank and character; among whom may be numbered the preſent lord Lyttleton, whoſe friendſhip to our author ſoftened the rigour of his misfortunes while he lived, and exerted itſelf towards his memory when he was no more, by taking pains to clear up imputations of a particular kind, which had been thrown out againſt his character.

Mr. Fielding had not been long a writer for the ſtage, when he married miſs Craddock, a beauty from Saliſbury. About that time his mother dying, a moderate eſtate, at Stower, in Dorſetſhire, devolved to him. To that place he retired with his wife, on whom he doated, with a reſolution to bid adieu to all the follies and intemperances of a town life.

But

But, unfortunately, a kind of family pride here gained an aſcendant over him, and he began immediately to vie in ſplendor with the neighbouring country ſquires. With an eſtate not much above two hundred pounds a year, and his wife's fortune, which did not exceed fifteen hundred pounds, he encumbered himſelf with a large retinue of ſervants, all clad in coſtly yellow liveries. For their maſter's honour, theſe people could not deſcend ſo low, as to be careful in their apparel, but in a month or two were unfit to be ſeen; the ſquire's dignity required that they ſhould be new equipped; and his chief pleaſure conſiſted in ſociety and convivial mirth, hoſpitality threw open his doors, and in leſs than three years, entertainments, hounds, and horſes, entirely devoured a little patrimony, which, had it been managed with œconomy, might have ſecured to him a ſtate of independence for the reſt of his life. Senſible of the diſagreeable ſituation he had now reduced himſelf to, he immediately determined to exert his beſt endeavours to recover, what he had wantonly thrown away, a decent competence; and being then about thirty years of age, he betook himſelf to the ſtudy of the law. The friendſhips he met with from ſome, who have ſince riſen to be the firſt ornaments of the law, will ever do honour to his memory. His application, while he was a ſtudent in the Temple, was remarkably intenſe: he has been frequently known, by his intimates, to retire

retire late at night from a tavern to his chambers, and there read, and make extracts from the moſt abſtruſe authors, for ſeveral hours before he went to bed. After the cuſtomary time of probation at the Temple, he was called to the bar. He attended with aſſiduity, both in term-time and on the Weſtern circuit, as long as his health permitted; but the gout ſoon rendered it impoſſible for him to be as conſtant at the bar, as the laborioufneſs of his profeſſion required: he could only now follow the law by ſnatches, at ſuch intervals as were free from indiſpoſition; which could not but be a diſpiriting circumſtance, as he ſaw himſelf at once diſabled from ever riſing to the eminence he aſpired to. However, under the ſeverities of pain and want, he ſtill purſued his reſearches with an cagerneſs of curioſity peculiar to him; and, though it is wittily remarked by Wycherly, that Apollo and Lyttleton ſeldom meet in the ſame brain, yet Mr. Fielding is allowed to have acquired a reſpectable ſhare of juriſprudence, and in ſome particular branches he is ſaid to have riſen to a great degree of eminence, more eſpecially in crown law, as may be judged from his leaving two volumes in folio on that ſubject. This work remains ſtill unpubliſhed, in the hands of his brother, ſir John Fielding; and it is deemed perfect in ſome parts. It will ſerve to give us an idea of the great force and vigour of his mind, if we conſider him purſuing ſo arduous a ſtudy under the exigencies of

family,

family diſtreſs, with a wife and children, whom he tenderly loved, looking up to him for ſubſiſtence, with a body lacerated by the acuteſt pains, and with a mind diſtracted with a thouſand avocations, and obliged, for immediate ſupply, to produce, almoſt extempore, a play, a farce, a pamphlet, or a newspaper.

A large number of fugitive political tracts, which had their value when the incidents were actually paſſing on the great ſcene of buſineſs, came from his pen: the periodical paper, called the Champion, owed its chief ſupport to his abilities; and though his eſſays in that collection cannot now be aſcertained, yet the reputation ariſing to him, at the time of publication, was not inconſiderable.

In the progreſs of Henry Fielding's talents, there ſeem to have been three remarkable periods; one, when his genius broke forth at once, with an effulgence ſuperior to all the rays of light it had before emitted, like the ſun in his morning glory; the ſecond, when it was diſplayed with collected force, and a fulneſs of perfection, like the ſun in meridian majeſty; and the third, when the ſame genius, grown more cool and temperate, ſtill continued to cheer and enliven, but ſhewed at the ſame time that it was tending to its decline, like the ſun, abating from his ardor, but ſtill gilding the weſtern hemiſphere.

To theſe three epochas of our author's genius, there is an exact correſpondency, in his

Joſeph

Joſeph Andrews, Tom Jones, and Amelia. It will not be improper here to mention, that the reverend Mr. Young, a learned and much eſteemed friend of Mr. Fielding's, ſat for parſon Adams. Mr. Young was remarkable for his intimate acquaintance with the Greek authors, and had as paſſionate a veneration for Æſchylus as parſon Adams; the overflowings of his benevolence were as ſtrong, and his fits of reverie were as frequent, and occurred, too, upon the moſt intereſting occaſions. Of this laſt obſervation a ſingular inſtance is given, by a gentleman who ſerved, during the laſt war, in Flanders, in the very ſame regiment to which Mr. Young was chaplain: on a fine ſummer's evening, he thought proper to indulge himſelf in his love of a ſolitary walk; and accordingly he ſallied forth from his tent: the beauties of the hemiſphere, and the landſkip round him, preſſed warmly on his imagination; his heart overflowed with benevolence to all God's creatures, and gratitude to the Supreme Diſpenſer of that emanation of glory which covered the face of things. It is very poſſible that a paſſage in his dearly-beloved Æſchylus occurred to his memory on this occaſion, and ſeduced his thoughts into a profound meditation. Whatever was the object of his reflections, certain it is, that ſomething did powerfully ſeize his imagination, ſo as to preclude all attention to things that lay immediately before him; and, in that deep fit of abſence, Mr. Young proceeded on his

journey, till he arrived, very quietly and calmly, in the enemy's camp, where he was, with difficulty, brought to a recollection of himſelf, by the repetition of "Qui va la," from the ſoldiers upon duty. The officer who commanded, finding that he had ſtrayed thither in the undeſigning ſimplicity of his heart, and ſeeing an innate goodneſs in his priſoner, which commanded his reſpect, very politely gave him leave to purſue his contemplations home again.

Soon after the publication of Joſeph Andrews, Fielding's laſt comedy, the Wedding Day, was exhibited on the ſtage: and, as we have already obſerved, it was attended with an indifferent ſhare of ſucceſs. The law, from this time, had its hot and cold fits with him. The repeated ſhocks of illneſs diſabled him from being as aſſiduous an attendant at the bar, as his own inclination, and patience of the moſt laborious application, would otherwiſe have made him. Beſides the demands for expence, which his veletudinarian habit of body conſtantly made upon him, he had likewiſe a family to maintain; from buſineſs he derived little or no ſupplies, and his proſpects, therefore, grew every day more gloomy and melancholy. To theſe diſcouraging circumſtances, if we add the infirmity of his wife, whom he loved tenderly, and the agonies he felt on her account, the meaſures of his afflictions will be well nigh full. To ſee her daily languiſhing and wearing away before

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before his eyes, was too much for a man of his ſtrong ſenſations; the fortitude of mind, with which he met all the other calamities of life, deſerted him on this moſt trying occaſion; and her death, which happened about this time, brought on ſuch a vehemence of grief, that his friends began to think him in danger of loſing his reaſon.

When the firſt emotions of his ſorrow were abated, he began again to ſtruggle with his fortune. He engaged in two periodical papers ſucceſſively. The firſt of theſe was called The True Patriot, which was ſet on foot during the late rebellion, and was conducive to the excitement of loyalty, and a love for the conſtitutions in the breaſt of his countrymen. The Jacobite Journal was calculated to diſcredit the ſhattered remains of an unſucceſsful party; and, by a well-applied raillery and ridicule, to bring the ſentiments of the diſaffected into contempt.

By this time Fielding had attained the age of forty-three; and, being inceſſantly purſued by reiterated attacks of the gout, he was wholly rendered incapable of purſuing the buſineſs of a barriſter any longer. He was obliged therefore to accept the office of an acting magiſtrate in the commiſſion of the peace for Middleſex, with a yearly penſion out of the public ſervice money.

That he was not inattentive to the calls of his duty, is evident from the many tracts he publiſhed relating to ſeveral of the penal laws,

and

and to the vices and mal-practices which thoſe laws were intended to reſtrain; particularly A Charge to the Grand-Jury, delivered at Weſtminſter, on the twenty-ninth of June, 1749; the Enquiry into the Cauſes of the Increaſe of Robberies; and A Propoſal for the Maintainance of the Poor.

Amidſt theſe ſevere exerciſes of his underſtanding, and all the laborious duties of his office, his invention could not lie ſtill; but he found leiſure to amuſe himſelf, and afterwards the world, with The Hiſtory of Tom Jones. And now we are arrived at the ſecond grand epoch of Mr. Fielding's genius, when all his faculties were in perfect uniſon, and conſpired to produce a complete work, eminent in all the great eſſentials of compoſition; in fable, character, ſentiment, and elocution; and, as theſe could not be all united in ſo high an aſſemblage, without a rich invention, a fine imagination, an enlightened judgment, and a lively wit, we may fairly here decide his character, and pronounce him, the Engliſh Cervantes.

It may be added, that, in many parts of Tom Jones, we find he poſſeſſed the ſofter graces of character painting, and of deſcription; many ſituations and ſentiments are touched with a delicate hand, and throughout the work he ſeems to feel as much delight in deſcribing the amiable part of human nature, as in early days he had in exaggerating the ſtrong and harſh features of turpitude and deformity.

formity. This circumſtance breathes an air of philanthropy through his work.

Thus have we traced our author in his progreſs to the time when the vigour of his mind was in its full growth of perfection; from this period it ſunk, but by ſlow degrees, into a decline. Amelia, which ſucceeded Tom Jones, in about four years, has indeeed the marks of genius, but of a genius beginning to fall into its decay. Amelia is the Odyſſey, the moral, and pathetic work of Henry Fielding.

While he was planning and executing this piece, it ſhould be remembered, that he was diſtracted by that multiplicity of avocations which ſurround a public magiſtrate; and his conſtitution, now greatly impaired and enfeebled, was labouring under the attacks of the gout, which were of courſe ſeverer than ever. However, the activity of his mind was not to be ſubdued: one literary purſuit was no ſooner over than freſh game aroſe. A periodical paper, under the title of The Covent Garden Journal, by Sir Alexander Drawcanſiir, knight, and Cenſor-general of Great-Britain, was immediately ſet on foot. It was publiſhed twice in every week, viz. on Tueſday and Saturday, and conduced ſo much to the entertainment of the public, that it was felt with a general regret, that the author's health did not enable him to perſiſt in the undertaking any longer.

Soon after this work was dropped, by the advice of phyſicians Mr. Fielding ſet out for Liſbon,

Liſbon. The laſt gleams of his wit and humour ſparkled in the account he left behind him of his Voyage to that place. In this his laſt ſketch, he puts us in mind of a perſon, under ſentence of death, jeſting on the ſcaffold; for his ſtrength was now quite exhauſted; and, in about two months after his arrival at Liſbon, he yielded his laſt breath, in the year 1754, and in the forty-eighth year of his age.

He left behind him (for he married a ſecond time) a wife and four children, three of which are ſtill living, and are now training up, in a handſome courſe of education, under the care of their uncle, with the aid of a very generous donation, given annually by Ralph Allen, eſq. for that purpoſe. An inſtance of humanity, which the reader did not want to learn of him, whoſe life is a conſtant effuſion of munificence; but for the ſake of a writer, whoſe works have afforded ſuch exquiſite entertainment, he will be glad to know, that the generous patron of the father, is now the tender guardian of his orphans.

Thus was cloſed a courſe of diſappointment, diſtreſs, vexation, infirmity, and ſtudy; for with each of theſe his life was variouſly checquered; and, perhaps, in ſtronger proportions than has been the lot of many.

We have ſeen how Mr. Fielding very ſoon ſquandered away his ſmall patrimony, which, with œconomy, might have procured him independence; we have ſeen how far he ruined,

into

into the bargain, a conſtitution which, in its original texture, ſeemed formed to laſt much longer. When indigence and illneſs were once let in upon him, he no longer remained maſter of his own actions, and that once delicacy of conduct, which alone conſtitutes and preſerves a character, was obliged to give way.

When he was not under the immediate urgency of want, they who were intimate with him, are ready to aver, that he had a mind greatly ſuperior to any thing mean or little; when his finances were exhauſted, he was not the moſt elegant in his choice of the means to redreſs himſelf; and he would inſtantly exhibit a farce, or a puppet-ſhew, in the Haymarket theatre; which was wholly inconſiſtent with the profeſſion he had embarked in. But his intimates can witneſs how much his pride ſuffered when he was forced into meaſures of this kind; no man having a juſter ſenſe of propriety, or more honourable ideas of the employment of an author and a ſcholar.

Henry Fielding was in ſtature rather riſing above ſix feet; his frame of body large, and remarkably robuſt, till the gout had broke the vigour of his conſtitution.

THE

Aveline Sculp.

S.r Rob. Walpole

THE LIFE OF

ROBERT WALPOLE.

THE right honourable Sir Robert Walpole was born at Houghton, on the ſixth of September, 1674. He was educated on the foundation at Eton ſchool; from thence elected to King's College in Cambridge; and there admitted, on the twelfth of April, in the place of Horſmonden Cannon, 1681; but, by the death of his brother, becoming intitled to the eſtate, which was inconſiſtent with the tenure of his fellowſhip, he reſigned the ſame.

He rebuilt, in the moſt magnificent manner, the antient ſeat of his family, Houghton.

He was firſt elected to parliament, at King's Lynn, in the year 1700, and was returned for that borough in moſt of the parliaments while he continued a commoner, except during the interval of one ſeſſions, in 1711; when his extraordinary weight and intereſt in the commons, in oppoſing the pernicious meaſures then carried on, rendered it highly neceſſary for thoſe, who were reſolved to gain their point, to get him out of the houſe; which was accordingly done, and he was committed

to the Tower, where he continued during the remainder of that ſeſſions. However, he was choſen again for the ſame place, even during his confinement; and none of the threats which were ſent down could either deter, or have the leaſt influence, upon that ſteady corporation, or cauſe them to ſwerve from the fixed opinion they had long entertained of his eminent ſervices and ſtrict adherence to the intereſts of his country.

In June, 1705, he was nominated, among others, to be one of the council to his royal highneſs prince George of Denmark, lord-high admiral of England, in the affairs of the Admiralty.

In 1707, he was conſtituted ſecretary of war; and treaſurer of the Navy, in January, 1709.

Upon Dr. Sacheverel's impeachment he was choſen one of the managers of the Houſe of Commons to make good the articles againſt him; and the managers had the thanks of the Houſe of Commons for their ſervices.

On the change of the miniſtry, which happened in Auguſt, 1710, he was removed from all his poſts, and held no place afterwards during the remaining part of the queen's reign.

But his known abilities, and his remarkable zeal for the ſucceſſion of the houſe of Hanover, which he had ſo warmly and ſucceſsfully aſſerted, brought him into the ſervice of his country again, ſoon after king George

the

the First's accession to the throne; and accordingly he was made paymaster to the guards and garrisons at home, and to the forces abroad, September 23, 1714, five days after the king's landing. And a new privy council being appointed to meet on the first of October, 1715, he was sworn thereof, and took his place accordingly. On the tenth day of the same month he was constituted first lord commissioner of the treasury, and chancellor of the exchequer; and the same year chosen chairman to the committee of secrecy, appointed by the house of Commons, to enquire into the conduct of those evil ministers, That brought a reproach on the nation, by the unsuitable conclusion of a war, which was carried on at so vast an expence; and attended with such unparalleled successes.

On the tenth of April, 1717, he voluntarily resigned both his high posts, of first lord commissioner of the treasury, and chancellor of the exchequer.

On the fourth of June, 1720, he was once more made paymaster general of all his majesty's forces; and, on the fourth of May, first lord commissioner of the treasury, and chancellor of the exchequer. His majesty declaring to his parliament, on the twenty-sixth of May, 1723, that some extraordinary affairs required his presence abroad for the summer, he was pleased to nominate him one of the lords justices for the administration of the government; and he was, by his majesty's command, sworn

ſole ſecretary of ſtate, during the abſence of the lord viſcount Townſhend, and the lord Carteret, who accompanied the king to Hanover.

His majeſty conferred the dignity of knighthood of the moſt honourable order of the Bath, upon him, on the twenty-ſeventh of May, 1725, at the time when his royal highneſs prince William (now duke of Cumberland) and ſeveral lords and perſons of diſtinction, were inveſted with the enſigns of that order. And on the ſeventh of June, the ſame year, he declared him one of the lords juſtices, for the adminiſtration of affairs, during his continuance at Hanover.

On the 26th of May, 1726, he was elected knight companion of the moſt noble order of the Garter (with his grace the duke of Richmond) and inſtalled at Windſor on the ſixteenth of June following. He reſigned the red ribband of the order of the Bath, in a chapter held the ſixth of June, 1728.

Sir Robert Walpole married Catherine, daughter of John Shorter, eſq; (and of Elizabeth his wife, daughter of ſir Eraſmus Philips, of Pictoin-caſtle in Pembrokeſhire, bart.) by whom he had three ſons, viz. Robert, Edward, and Horatio. His only daughter, Mary, married to the lord viſcount Malpaſs, ſon and heir apparent to the right honourable George earl of Cholmondeley, died of a conſumption in France, in 1731-2; but her corpſe was brought over, and interred at Houghton.

By

By letters patent, bearing date the first of June, 1723, Robert, his eldest son, and heir apparent, was created a peer of Great Britain, by the name, style, and title, of Baron Walpole of Walpole in the county of Norfolk.

The reasons which induced his majesty king George I. to confer this dignity, are thus set forth in the preamble to his patent, viz.

FORASMUCH as our right-trusty and well-beloved counsellor Robert Walpole, one of the lords commissioners of our treasury, and chancellor of our exchequer, has recommended himself to us, our family, and his country, by his great merits and extraordinary endowments, we deemed it a duty incumbent upon us to call him up to the rank of Peerage.

But as he was more ambitious of meriting honours, than acquiring them; that his family might, at least, be ennobled, we have resolved to confer those honours on the son, which were his father's due; and to rank Robert Walpole the younger among our nobility. From which gentleman, whatever is great, or glorious, may reasonably be expected. He has long since shewn a very ripe genius to literature, and the sciences, and now resolves to bring whatever is worthy his notice from foreign countries.

And as he has one at home, who will be his instructor in whatever may have escaped his observation abroad, we make no doubt,

but, by the aſſiſtance of ſo able a guide, he will deliver the dignity, derived from his father's merits, enlarged to his poſterity.

It is moreover our pleaſure, that a youth of ſuch extraordinary hopes, ſhould take his titles from the place, whence the antient family of Walpole derived their name which family hath flouriſhed, in the county of Norfolk, ever ſince the reign of Edward I. where it has been always held and eſteemed among thoſe of the chiefeſt note.

The arms of Walpale, are,

I. Or, on a Feſs, between two Chevrons Sable; three Croſs-Croſlets of the Firſt.

II. Creſt. On a Wreath, the Buſt of a Man ſide faced, couped Proper; with a long cap, Gules, thereon a Catherine-Wheel.

This creſt belonged to the family of Robſart, and was given in honour of the memory of Sir John Robſart, Knight of the Garter, for his eminent ſervices againſt the Saracens.

III. Supporters. On the Dexter-Side, an Antelope, and on the Siniſter, a Buck, both Argent, attired Proper, gorged with Collars; Checkie, Or, and Azure, each having a chain thereto affixed; their Hoofs gold.

IV. Motto. Fari quæ ſentiat.

His lordſhip, ſoon after his return to England, married Margaret, daughter and ſole heir of Samuel Rolle, of Heanton, in the county

county of Devon, eſq; on Thurſday the 27th of March, 1724.

Sir Robert had too many places of honour and profit under the government, to eſcape the cenſure and calumny of the ambitious, ſordid, or envious people about the court; no wonder, then, that he fell into diſgrace, and was accuſed of bribery, &c. But, to ſet this matter in a clear light, it will be neceſſary to conſider the reſolution which the houſe of Commons came to, and the crimes that Mr. Walpole is thereby charged with. The reſolution was:

THAT Robert Walpole, eſq; (a member of this houſe) in receiving the ſum of five hundred guineas, and in taking a note for five hundred pounds more, on account of two contracts for forage of her majeſty's troops quartered in North-Britain, made by him when ſecretary at war, purſuant to a power granted him by the late lord treaſurer, is guilty of a high breach of truſt, and notorious corruption.

The crimes, then, are, a high breach of truſt, and notorious corruption; crimes, indeed, of a very heinous nature, and either of them, we ſhall always think, ſufficient to ſubject any member to the juſt reſentment and cenſure of parliament; but, at the ſame time, we cannot be of opinion, that any man ought

to ſuffer for being barely charged with a crime, unleſs it be proved upon him, either by poſitive evidence, or by ſuch circumſtances as make the preſumption full and clear againſt him; much leſs can we conſent to cenſure or puniſh any man, when moſt circumſtances concur in his juſtification, where the preſumption is ſtronger in his favour than to his prejudice; and eſpecially where there is poſitive evidence upon oath to acquit, and not any direct evidence to convict; which ſeems to have been Mr. Walpole's caſe.

As to the firſt article, of the breach of truſt, we muſt obſerve, that, after Mr. Walpole had been heard in his place, and was withdrawn, there was not one member in the houſe that did in the leaſt inſiſt on that head; all that ſpoke were either ſilent upon it, or did even admit, that he had cleared himſelf of all imputation upon that ſcore; ſo that, indeed, we can no ways account how that came to be part of the cenſure; but that being made part of the pocket-queſtion, agreed upon the night before, not one word of it was to be altered, let the evidence upon hearing be what it would.

To remove all ſuſpicion of Mr. Walpole's having any proſpect of advantage to himſelf, or any body elſe, in making the contract, he proved, firſt, That it was not in his power, as not being the only perſon employed or intruſted by the government to make the contracts. And, ſecond, That the contracts were made upon

upon the loweſt and moſt advantageous terms that could poſſibly be had for the government.

Upon the march of the Engliſh dragoons into Scotland, which, by the laws of Scotland, could not be quartered in that part of the kingdom, according to the method preſcribed by the laws of England, the duke of Queenſberry, the earls of Mar, Loudon, and Seafield, and other Scots lords, that were of the queen's moſt honourable privy council, were ordered to meet and conſider of the moſt proper methods of providing forage for the troops in North Britain; who ſummoned to their aſſiſtance all the Scots officers of dragoons that were then in London, and did give their opinions to her majeſty, that the moſt proper and practicable method of providing forage, was to make contracts with commiſſaries of forage, as has been uſually practiſed in Scotland; and recommended ſir Samuel Maclellan, lord provoſt of Edinburgh, who had frequently been employed in this ſervice before the Union, as a proper perſon to be treated with.

The propoſals of ſir Samuel Maclellan were referred to lieutenant-general Erle, Mr. Howe, paymaſter-general to her majeſty's forces, and Mr. Walpole; who, at ſeveral meetings, did likewiſe conſult all the Scots officers: and the prices of nine-pence, and three-pence half-penny, for dry and green forage, for each twenty-four hours, were judged reaſonable, from the beſt information that could be had,

and agreed to accordingly, by Mr. Erle, Mr. Howe, and Mr. Walpole, who were jointly and equally concerned, with Mr. Walpole, in ſettling and agreeing the prices, although the contract was afterwards prepared and executed by him, by virtue of his office as ſecretary at war. And this Mr. Erle did declare in the houſe of Commons, at the time when the matter was under conſideration.

As the making the contract, and agreeing the prices and conditions, was not left ſolely to Mr. Walpole, ſo he proved, beyond contradiction, that the bargain was, upon all accounts, made upon as advantageous terms for the public as poſſibly could be had; and this was made to appear, by comparing the contract with all former contracts made before the union; with the prices that the Engliſh dragoons had been obliged to pay from the time they marched into Scotland to the making of the contract; and with the prices which the Scotch dragoons had paid that very year before a proviſion had been made for them by contract.

But a contract having afterwards been made at lower rates, an inference was drawn from thence of the unreaſonableneſs of the contract; but, if this contract was juſtifiable, compared with all former contracts, and the circumſtances and prices which governed at that time, it is very unjuſt to make any imputation from the plenty or ſcarcity, dearneſs or cheapneſs, of forage that might afterwards happen. Beſides, the

the new contract that was made upon lower terms proved deſtructive of the ſervice, as appeared by a Memorial ſigned by the colonels and commanding officers; which was preſented at the War office, ſetting forth,

That, upon account of the forage which was contracted for at ſuch low rates, the country cannot afford to bring it to quarters, nor to give good in its kind; and that the contractor has not any magazines as he ought to have for the neceſſary ſupply of the troops; for want whereof the troops are ſo diſperſed, and ſeparated at ſuch diſtances, that they are rendered utterly incapable of any ſervice, and the officers can no ways be anſwerable for their good order and dicipline.

By what has been ſaid, it appears, that all poſſible care and precaution was uſed to obtain the moſt advantageous terms that could be had for the government; and that the forage could not be ſupplied at lower rates conſiſtent with the ſervice; which leaves no room to ſuſpect that the contract was made with any view or proſpect of a private advantage to Mr. Walpole, or any other perſon; and ſeems ſufficiently to clear Mr. Walpole from the firſt part of the charge, wherein he is ſaid to be guilty of a high breach of truſt.

We come now to the ſecond article, wherein Mr. Walpole is charged with notorious corruption.

A cenſure of this nature ought to be grounded upon evidence, where the notoriety of the fact makes the truth unqueſtionable; and not upon ſuſpicion, which cannot, in any juſtice, be thought ſufficient to call a crime notorious; and, that there was nothing but a bare ſuſpicion in this caſe, may truly be affirmed, becauſe we think the charge itſelf amounts to no more before it comes to be controverted; but, when poſitive and expreſs evidence upon oath is brought in oppoſition to a bare preſumption, with what juſtice can a crime be called notorious? But, if what was offered in this caſe had been only in mitigation of the crime, we ſhould not have thought the proceedings ſo very extraordinary: but, as the evidence that was given, in our judgment, acquitted Mr. Walpole, we will endeavour to give our readers the ſame ſatisfaction that was given us, by conſidering and ſtating, as far as we are able to recollect it, the evidence as it ſtood on both ſides.

The ground of the charge is contained in Mr. Montgomery's depoſition, the chief part of the defence in the depoſition of Mr. Mann, and the narrative of colonel Douglas. The two firſt were ſworn before the commiſſioners of public accounts, and the narrative is the ſubſtance of the evidence which colonel Douglas gave in his place, as a member of parliament; which, for Mr. Walpole's further juſtification, he reduced into writing and ſigned.

Here

Here likewiſe we muſt beg leave to obſerve, that neither the depoſition of Mr. Mann, nor the narrative of colonel Douglas, do any ways contradict the depoſition of Mr. Montgomery, but only explain the facts and aſſertions, which are not in themſelves a direct charge, but ſeem conceived in general and obſcure terms, on purpoſe to leave room for thoſe inferences that were drawn from them.

The fact charged is, Mr. Walpole's receiving the ſum of five hundred guineas, and taking a note for five hundred pounds more, on account of two contracts for forage made by him, &c.

The evidence to ſupport this is, that part of Mr. Montgomery's depoſition which ſays,

"This deponent gave Mr. Walpole a bill, or note, payable to himſelf, or order, and delivered it into his hands; and, that he paid the ſaid ſum to Mr. Mann, who delivered the note to this deponent with Mr. Walpole's receipt on the back of it."

The like for the ſecond year. The queſtion will then be, Upon what account were theſe notes given to Mr. Walpole? and, Whether the money was received by him, for him, or for whoſe uſe?

Mr. Montgomery, the informer, ſwears, That Sir Samuel Maclellan, who made the firſt contract with Mr. Walpole, told him, when he was at London, and ſoon after upon his

death bed at Edinburgh did declare the ſame, That a friend of Mr. Walpole's was to be a ſharer in the contract.

Colonel Douglas, who was equally concerned, declares, that Sir Samuel told him, That, among others, he had admitted a gentleman in London, recommended to him by Mr. Walpole, for a ſhare; and, that he always underſtood, that a ſharer was to bear equal riſque with the reſt in caſe any loſs ſhould be.

And Mr. Mann ſwears, That, by an agreement between him and Sir Samuel Maclellan, he was to be a ſharer in this undertaking, at equal profit or loſs, as ſhould happen or ariſe in performing the contract, together with ſuch other partners as ſhould be taken into the contract by Sir Samuel Maclellan, upon his arrival in Scotland.

So that all evidence agrees, A third perſon, a friend of Mr. Walpole's, or recommended by him, was to be concerned; and Mr. Mann ſwears poſitively himſelf to be this third perſon.

The next ſtep is, Mr. Montgomery ſwears, That John Campbel and colonel Douglas directed him to pay five hundred guineas to Mr. Walpole. What ſays colonel Douglas to this? That, Sir Samuel Maclellan being dead, and he not knowing the perſon, nor at that time remembring his name, judged it moſt proper to have the money made payable to Mr. Walpole, or order, for the uſe of his friend; and that

that, upon hearing the name of Mr. Mann, he recollects that to be the name of the gentleman that Sir Samuel Maclellan named, as the perſon recommended to be a ſharer in the contract.

This ſurely explains why the notes were made payable to Mr. Walpole, and delivered to him; and is a further proof, that Mr. Mann was, from the beginning, the perſon concerned in the contract, and for whom the ſhare was reſerved by Sir Samuel Maclellan.

Mr. Montgomery likewiſe ſwears, He paid the ſaid ſum to Mr. Mann, who delivered him the note with Mr. Walpole's receipt on the back of it. This Mr. Mann admits to be true, and at the ſame time declares, That he received the money due by the ſaid note from Montgomery, at ſeveral times, for which he gave his own receipts; and, in his own name, at the ſeveral times of payment: which receipts, at the payment of the laſt ſum, were cancelled, and a diſcharge, or receipt in full, was written upon the back of Mr. Montgomery's note, over Mr. Walpole's name, that was before only a blank endorſement, which was done upon cloſing the account between Mr. Montgomery and the deponent, as is uſual upon the like occaſions.

And here it is to be obſerved, that this note remained all this time in Mr. Mann's hands, until it was taken up and cancelled, together with the ſeveral receipts at the payment of the laſt

laſt ſum. And, in the ſame affidavit, Mr. Mann further depoſes, That the ſeveral ſums of money received by him from the ſaid Mr. Montgomery, upon the two notes of five hundred guineas and five hundred pounds, were received by him for his own ſole uſe and benefit, and that he has not paid the ſaid ſums, nor any part thereof, nor accounted for them, nor is under any obligation or agreement to pay or account for the ſame, or any part of them, to any perſon whatſoever; but, that the ſame does, and is, to remain to his own ſole benefit or advantage.

Beſides the poſitive evidence upon oath, the concurring circumſtances render even the preſumption ſtronger in Mr. Walpole's favour than to his prejudice. The firſt contract was made in May, 1709, to determine in May, 1710; but the firſt note was not given till the twenty-ninth of June, 1710; which was above a twelvemonth after the contract was made. It is therefore more reaſonable to ſuppoſe, that this was given as a conſideration to influence Mr. Walpole, in making a contract, which was executed a year before, and was then expired; or, that it was a proportion of profit, due to Mr. Mann, as a ſharer, for which the other contractors did not account to him, until they ſaw, at the year's end, the neat profit upon the whole, and could thereby determine what his ſhare amounted to? But may it not be preſumed, that Mr. Mann's name was only made uſe of, and that this

ſhare

ſhare was in truth reſerved for Mr. Walpole? You have already heard what Mr. Mann's oath ſays in anſwer to that. But conſider it, by way of argument; Mr. Walpole is ſuppoſed, in this way of arguing, to have had caution enough, not to let his own name be made uſe of for his ſhare, in making a contract with Sir Samuel Maclellan, to have ſubſtituted Mr. Mann to meet Sir Samuel at a tavern, and perſonate him through the whole progreſs of this affair, where any converſation or diſcourſe was had about it, and not to truſt any of the contractors with the ſecret of his being concerned, (for that Mr. Montgomery did not pretend to ſay, that ever he had heard or believed; and colonel Douglas declared quite the contrary) and at laſt, after all this great care and caution, takes the note payable to himſelf and endorſes it.

Is it reaſonable to believe, that ſo much care and caution ſhould be uſed all along, and at laſt be forgot, juſt when it became ſo neceſſary? Is it probable there ſhould be ſo much management, where there was leaſt danger; and, that Mr. Walpole ſhould be ſo weak, as to give his own hand in evidence againſt himſelf, if he had been really concerned? Had it not been as eaſy to have had the notes made payable to Mr. Mann? or, could that have been forgot, if there had been any art or colluſion that was before covered or diſguiſed under his name? For our parts, we think, the notes being made payable to Mr. Walpole, rather

ther argues an innocence than a guilt, becauſe nothing is ſo common and obvious, as to uſe a third name, where any ſiniſter end is to be concealed.

What has hitherto been ſaid, relates chiefly to the firſt note only, but is applicable in general to the whole tranſaction; but there being ſome difference in the circumſtances between the notes, we muſt beg the reader's patience for an obſervation or two that chiefly concern the ſecond note.

It is ſaid, that, admitting all which Mr. Walpole alledges in relation to the firſt contract to be true, and that there is no blame to be imputed to him on that account, how came Mr. Walpole to make a ſecond contract, upon the ſame terms, when he knew there was ſuch a profit upon the firſt?

In anſwer to this, we appeal to the proceedings of the Houſe of Commons, printed by their order; where, by the dates, you will find that the ſecond contract was made for ſupplying forage from May, 1709, to the fourteenth of May, 1710; which being then determined, the ſecond contract for forage, from the fifteenth of May, 1710, to the fifteenth of May, 1711, was made before the note was given, which was on the twenty-ninth of June, in the year 1710; and, in conſequence, Mr. Walpole, at making the ſecond contract, had no knowledge of the profit that aroſe from the firſt.

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A great ſtreſs is laid upon Mr. Walpole's having endorſed the firſt note, which is called a giving his receipt for the money; but the ſecond note, it ſeems, was never endorſed at all; and yet there had been above four hundred pounds paid upon it, for which receipts were given by Mr. Mann, or for his uſe, upon diſtinct papers, and not entered upon the note, nor any mention made of Mr. Walpole, to whom the note was made payable, and without whoſe order, or endorſement, there could be no diſcharge for the money.

What ſtronger preſumption can there be, than, that Mr. Montgomery, at the time of paying this money, was ſatisfied that Mr. Mann had a right to the money, whoſe diſcharge he took for ſo great a ſum, without any mention made of, or relation had to, the note, upon which it was due? So that, to read this note, and the receipts which were given for the money, as they are printed by order of the Houſe of Commons, is almoſt alone ſufficient evidence, to convince any man, that this money was paid for the uſe and benefit of Mr. Mann; and, that Montgomery, without being ſatisfied it was ſo, would hardly have paid ſuch a ſum of money, for which he had ſtill been accountable.

I remember there was an objection made to ſomething that dropped from Mr. Montgomery at the bar of the Houſe, as if the five hundred pounds received by Mr. Mann, was more

than

than a juſt ſhare, ariſing from the profits of the contract.

In anſwer to this, I muſt obſerve, That the ſhare reſerved for Mr. Mann is ſtated by the commiſſioners of public accounts, to be a fifth part; and the ſhare for Sir Alexander Murray, by the evidence of colonel Douglas, and the oath of Sir David Dalrymple, who was likewiſe ſworn upon this account by the commiſſioners, to be a fourteenth part; and Sir Alexander Murray receiving, for his fourteenth part, two hundred pounds, proves the profit upon the whole to be about two thouſand eight hundred pounds; which entitled the five principal partners to above five hundred pounds a-piece for their reſpective ſhares: but, having this occaſion to mention the profits, it will not be improper to acquaint our readers, that each year's contract amounted to about twenty thouſand pounds, that the profit upon the whole may not be thought ſo very exorbitant as it otherwiſe might appear.

We have heard of an objection raiſed from Mr. Mann's refuſing to be a ſecond time examined by the commiſſioners of public accounts; from whence a conſciouſneſs of guilt is inferred as if the cauſe was not able to abide a ſtricter examination.

In anſwer to this, it is firſt obſervable, That, if there be any weight in the objection, it could have no weight or influence in the Houſe of Commons in convicting Mr. Walpole, becauſe

the

the complaint of Mr. Mann's refuſal was not made to the houſe till after the whole proceeding was over and paſſed: but, if it makes any impreſſion upon mens private opinions, it is neceſſary the world ſhould know, that, when Mr. Mann went and voluntarily offered himſelf to be examined by the commiſſioners, after the depoſition was made in favour of Mr. Walpole, Mr. Mann was examined and croſs-examined by the commiſſioners upon his oath for above three hours; from whence they formed the notable ſecond depoſition, that they thought worth preſenting to the Houſe of Commons: but, in forming this ſecond depoſition, they made themſelves the ſole judges of what ſhould be inſerted, and what omitted; and thereby left out ſeveral things that were material to explain the other parts of the information.

This method of proceeding, Mr. Mann might well apprehend would tend more to enſnare him, than to ſet the matter in a true light; and, by the accounts which we have heard of the methods that the commiſſioners took in their examinations, and reducing them afterwards into form, wherein, although they did add nothing, they took upon them to leave out as much as they pleaſed.

It is not therefore to be wondered at, that this gentleman was unwilling to ſubject himſelf to ſuch methods of adminiſtring juſtice: but, if ſeven ſuch ingenious perſons were not able

able, in three hours examination, to puzzle and confound an illiterate perſon, enough to draw from him any thing that did in the leaſt affect Mr. Walpole, it will be very hard to make an inference to Mr. Walpole's prejudice becauſe Mr. Mann, who was by law not ſubject to their juriſdiction, as having never been concerned in any public capacity, was unwilling to be examined upon his oath, after he had given them all the information that he could, and had ſubmitted to a three hours examination the day before.

We have been very particular in laying this affair before the reader, that he might the better be able to form a right judgment on ſo remarkable a tranſaction in the life of a man that has made no inconſiderable figure in the Britiſh adminiſtration; for, though Sir Robert himſelf affected to treat this matter very lightly, and has been heard to ſay he did not think it any blot in his eſcutcheon, yet it is certain, that it has always been remembered to his diſadvantage in point of honour.

Notwithſtanding his enemies rejoiced at his diſgrace, he had ſo many powerful friends about the court, that his intereſt ſuffered but little; and we find him ſoon after prime-miniſter to king George II. by whom, in the year 1742, he was created earl of Orford, and had a penſion of four thouſand pounds per annum granted him; which he did not long enjoy; for he

he died in the month of March, 1745, after a very ſhort illneſs.

His circumſtances were not affluent, for he was liberal in his diſpoſition, and had ſuch a number of rapacious dependants to gratify, that little was left for his own private occaſions.

THE

THE LIFE OF

GEORGE ANSON.

THE anceſtors of the late right honourable George lord Anſon, have been ſeated in Staffordſhire for many generations, till William Anſon, eſq; of Dunſtan, having purchaſed the manor of Shugborough in that county, in the reign of king James I. made it, from that time, his chief reſidence.

His lordſhip was the ſecond and youngeſt ſon of William Anſon, eſq; of Shuckborough (who died in 1720) by Elizabeth, ſiſter to the counreſs of Macclesfield, and aunt to the preſent earl.

Mr. Anſon, having very early devoted himſelf to the ſea ſervice, was made captain of the Weazle ſloop in 1722; and, the year following, captain of the Scarborough man of war. On the breaking out of the late Spaniſh war, he was recommended to his late majeſty for the command of a ſquadron deſtined to annoy the enemy in the South Seas; and, by an unfrequented navigation, to attack them with vigour in their remoteſt ſettlements. A deſign which, had it not met with unaccountable delays, would have amply anſwered the intention; and might have given, perhaps, an

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an irretrievable blow to the Spaniſh American power.

Mr. Anſon ſailed from St. Helens on the eighteenth of September, 1740, in the Centurion, of ſixty guns, with the Glouceſter and Severn, of fifty each, the Pearl, of forty, the Wager ſtoreſhip, and Tryal ſloop. His departure having been retarded ſome months beyond the proper ſeaſon, he did not arrive in the latitude of Cape Horn till about the middle of the vernal equinox, and in ſuch tempeſtuous weather, that it was with much difficulty that his own ſhip, with the Glouceſter and the ſloop, could double that dangerous cape; and his ſtrength was conſiderably diminiſhed by the putting back of the Severn and Pearl, and the loſs of the Wager ſtoreſhip. Yet, notwithſtanding this diſappointment, and the havock that the ſcurvy had made among the ſhips that were left, he ar-arrived at the fertile, though uninhabited iſland of Juan Fernandez.

Having, at this iſland, repaired his damages and refreſhed his men, with the above inconſiderable armament, he kept, for eight months, the whole coaſt of Peru and Mexico in continual alarm, made ſeveral prizes; took and plundered the town of Peyta, and, by his humane behaviour to his priſoners, impreſſed on their minds a laſting idea of Britiſh generoſity.

At length, with the Centurion only (the other two ſhips having been condemned) he traverſed the vaſt extent of the Pacific Ocean, a three

a three months voyage; in the courſe of which, his numbers were ſo much farther reduced by ſickneſs, that it was with the utmoſt difficulty he reached the iſland of Tinian, one of the Ladrones; a place which, from the following luxurious deſcription theſe voyagers have given of it, ſeems truly to be a terreſtrial paradiſe.

THIS iſland lies in the latitude of 15. 8. North, and longitude from Acapulco 114. 50. W. Its length is about twelve miles, and its breadth about half as much; it extending from the S. S. W. to the N. N. E.

The ſoil is every where dry and healthy, and ſomewhat ſandy, which being leſs diſpoſed than other ſoils to a rank and over luxuriant vegetation, occaſions the meadows and the bottoms of the woods to be much neater and ſmoother than is cuſtomary in hot climates. The land riſes, by an eaſy ſlope, from the very beach where we watered to the middle of the iſland; though the general courſe of its aſcent is often interrupted and traverſed by gentle deſcents and vallies; and the inequalities that are formed by the different combinations of theſe gradual ſwellings of the ground, are moſt beautifully diverſified by large lawns, which are covered with a very fine trefoil, intermixed with a variety of flowers, and are ſkirted by woods of tall and well ſpread trees, moſt of them celebrated, either for their aſpect or their fruit.

The turf of the lawns is quite clean and even, and the bottoms of the woods, in many places, clear of all buſhes and underwoods; and the woods themſelves uſually terminate on the lawns with a regular outline, not broken, nor confuſed with ſtraggling trees, but appearing as uniform as if laid out by art. Hence aroſe a great variety of the moſt elegant and entertaining proſpects, formed by the mixture of theſe woods and lawns, and their various interſections with each other, as they ſpread themſelves differently through the vallies, and over the ſlopes and declivities with which the place abounds.

The fortunate animals too, which, for the greateſt part of the year, are the ſole lords of this happy ſoil, partake, in ſome meaſure, of the romantic caſt of the iſland, and are no ſmall addition to its wonderful ſcenery: for the cattle, of which it is not uncommon to ſee herds of ſome thouſands feeding together in a large meadow, are certainly the moſt remarkable in the world; for they are all of them milk-white, except their ears, which are generally black; and, though there are no inhabitants here, yet the clamour and frequent parading of domeſtic poultry, which range the woods in great numbers, perpetually excite the ideas of the neighbourhood of farms and villages, and greatly contribute to the beauty and chearfulneſs of the place.

The cattle on the iſland we computed were at leaſt ten thouſand; and we had no difficulty

in getting near them, as they were not ſhy of us. Our firſt method of killing them was ſhooting them; but, at laſt, when, by accidents, we were obliged to huſband our ammunition, our men ran them down with eaſe. Their fleſh was extremely well taſted, and was believed by us to be much more eaſily digeſted than any we had ever met with.

The fowls too were exceeding good, and were likewiſe run down with little trouble; for they could ſcarce fly further than an hundred yards at a flight, and even that fatigued them ſo much, that they could not readily riſe again; ſo that, aided by the openneſs of the woods, we could at all times furniſh ourſelves with whatever number we wanted.

Beſides the cattle and poultry, we found here abundance of wild hogs. Theſe were moſt excellent food; but, as they were a very fierce animal, we were obliged either to ſhoot them, or to hunt them with large dogs, which we found upon the place at our landing, and which belonged to a detachment that was then upon the iſland, amaſſing proviſions for the garriſon of Guam.

As theſe dogs had been purpoſely trained to the killing of the wild hogs, they followed us very readily, and hunted for us: but, tho' they were a large bold breed, the hogs fought with ſo much fury, that they frequently deſtroyed them; ſo that we, by degrees, loſt the greateſt part of them.

But

But this place was not only extremely grateful to us from the plenty and excellency of its freſh proviſions, but was as much, perhaps, to be admired for its fruits and vegetable productions, which were moſt fortunately adapted to the cure of the ſea-ſcurvy, which had ſo terribly reduced us; for in the woods there were inconceivable quantities of cocoa-nuts, with the cabbages growing on the ſame tree. There were, beſides, guavoes, limes, ſweet and ſour oranges, and a kind of fruit peculiar to theſe iſlands, called by the Indians Rima, but by us the Bread-Fruit; for it was conſtantly eaten by us during our ſtay upon the iſland inſtead of bread; and ſo univerſally preferred to it, that no ſhip's bread was expended during that whole interval.

It grew upon a tree which was ſomewhat lofty, and which, towards the top, divides into large and ſpreading branches. The leaves of this tree are of a remarkable deep green, are notched about the edges, and are generally from a foot to eighteen inches in length. The fruit itſelf grows indifferently on all parts of the branches; it is in ſhape rather eliptical than round, is covered with a rough rind, and is uſually ſeven or eight inches long; each of them grows ſingly and not in cluſters.

This fruit is fitteſt to be uſed when it is full grown, but is ſtill green; in which ſtate its taſte has ſome diſtant reſemblance to that of an artichoke-bottom, and its texture is not very

different, for it is ſoft and ſpongy. As it ripens it grows ſofter and of a yellow colour, and then contracts a luſcious taſte, and an agreeable ſmell, not unlike that of a ripe peach; but then it is eſteemed unwholeſome, and is ſaid to produce fluxes.

Beſides the fruits already enumerated, there were many other vegetables extremely conducive to the cure of the malady we had long laboured under; ſuch as water-melons, dandelion, creeping purſlain, mint, ſcurvy-graſs, and ſorrel; all which, together with the freſh meats of the place, we devoured with great eagerneſs, prompted thereto by the ſtrong inclination which nature never fails of exciting in ſcorbutic diſorders for theſe powerful ſpecifics.

It will eaſily be conceived, from what already hath been ſaid, that our cheer upon this iſland was in ſome degree luxurious, but I have not yet recited all the varieties of proviſion which we here indulged in. Indeed we thought it prudent totally to abſtain from fiſh, the few we caught at our firſt arrival having ſurfeited thoſe who eat of them; but, conſidering how much we had been inured to that ſpecies of food, we did not regard this circumſtance as a diſadvantage, eſpecially as the defect was ſo amply ſupplied by the beef, pork, and fowls already mentioned, and by great quantity of wild fowl; for I muſt obſerve, that near the centre of the iſland there

were

were two conſiderable pieces of freſh water, which abounded with duck, teal, and curlew; not to mention the whiſtling-plover, which we found there in prodigious plenty.

And now, perhaps, it may be wondered at, that an iſland, ſo excellently furniſhed with the conveniencies of life, and ſo well adapted, not only to the ſubſiſtence, but likewiſe to the enjoyment of mankind, ſhould be entirely deſtitute of inhabitants, eſpecially as it is in the neighbourhood of other iſlands, which, in ſome meaſure, depend upon this for ſupport.

To obviate this difficulty, I muſt obſerve, that it is not fifty years ſince the iſland was depopulated. The Indians we had in our cuſtody aſſured us, that formerly the three iſlands of Tinian, Rota, and Guam, were all full of inhabitants; and, that Tinian alone contained thirty thouſand ſouls: but a ſickneſs raging amongſt theſe iſlands, which deſtroyed multitudes of the people, the Spaniards, to recruit their numbers at Guam, which were greatly diminiſhed by this mortality, ordered all the inhabitants of Tinian thither; where, languiſhing for their former habitations, and their cuſtomary method of life, the greateſt part of them, in a few years, died of grief. Indeed, independent of that attachment which all mankind have ever ſhown to the places of their birth and bringing up, it ſhould ſeem, from what has been already ſaid, that there were few

countries more worthy to be regretted than this of Tinian.

Theſe poor Indians might reaſonably have expected, at the great diſtance from Spain where they are placed, to have eſcaped the violence and cruelty of that haughty nation, ſo fatal to a large proportion of the human race: but it ſeems their remote ſituation could not protect them from ſharing in the common deſtruction of the weſtern world, all the advantage they received from their diſtance being only to periſh an age or two later.

It may perhaps be doubted, if the number of the inhabitants of Tinian, who were baniſhed to Guam, and who died there pining for their native home, was ſo great as what we have related above; but, not to mention the concurrent aſſertion of our priſoners, and the commodiouſneſs of the iſland, and its great fertility, there are ſtill remains to be met with on the place, which evince it to have been once extremely populous: for there are, in all parts of the iſland, a great number of ruins of a very particular kind. They uſually conſiſt of two rows of ſquare pyramidal pillars, each pillar being about ſix feet from the next, and the diſtance between the rows being about twelve feet; the pillars themſelves are about five feet ſquare at the baſe, and about thirteen feet high; and, on the top of each of them, there is a ſemi-globe, with the flat part upwards; the whole of the pillars and the ſemi-

globe

globe is ſolid, being compoſed of ſand and ſtone cemented together and plaiſtered over.

If the account our priſoners gave us of theſe ſtructures was true, the iſland indeed muſt have been extremely populous; for they aſſured us, that they were the foundations of particular buildings ſet apart for thoſe Indians only who had engaged in ſome religious vow; and monaſtic inſtitutions are often to be met with in many pagan nations. However, if theſe ruins were originally the baſis of the common dwelling-houſes of the natives, their numbers muſt have been conſiderable: for, in many parts of the iſland, they are extremely thick planted, and ſufficiently evince the great plenty of former inhabitants. But, to return to the preſent ſtate of the iſland,

Having mentioned the conveniencies of this place, the excellency and quantity of its fruits and proviſions, the neatneſs of its lawns, the ſtatelineſs, freſhneſs, and fragrance of its woods, the happy inequality of its ſurface, and the variety and elegance of the views it afforded, I muſt now obſerve, that all theſe advantages were greatly enhanced by the healthineſs of its climate, by the almoſt conſtant breezes which prevail there, and by the frequent ſhowers which fall, and which, though of a very ſhort and almoſt momentary duration, are extremely grateful and refreſhing, and are, perhaps, one cauſe of the ſalubrity of the air, and of the extraordinary influence it was obſerved

ſerved to have upon us, in increaſing and invigorating our appetites and digeſtion. This was ſo remarkable, that thoſe among our officers, who were at all other times ſpare and temperate eaters, who, beſides a ſlight breakfaſt, made but one moderate repaſt a day, were here, in appearance, transformed into gluttons; for, inſtead of one reaſonable fleſh-meal, they were now ſcarce ſatisfied with three, and each of them ſo prodigious in quantity, as would at another time have produced a fever or a ſurfeit: and yet our digeſtion ſo well correſponded with the keenneſs of our appetites, that we were neither diſordered or even loaded by this repletion; for, after having, according to the cuſtom of the iſland, made a large beef-breakfaſt, it was not long before we began to conſider the approach of dinner as a very deſirable though ſomewhat tardy incident.

And now, having been thus large in my encomiums on this iſland, in which, however, I conceive I have not done it juſtice, it is neceſſary I ſhould ſpeak of thoſe circumſtances in which it is defective, whether in point of beauty or utility.

And, firſt, with reſpect to its water. I muſt own, that, before I had ſeen this ſpot, I did not conceive that the abſence of running-water, of which it is entirely deſtitute, could have been ſo well replaced by any other means, as it is in this iſland; for, though there are no ſtreams, yet the water of the wells and ſprings which

which are to be met with every where near the ſurface, is extremely good; and, in the midſt of the iſland, there are two or three conſiderable pieces of excellent water, whoſe edges are as neat and even, as if they had been baſons purpoſely made for the decoration of the place. It muſt, however, be confeſſed, that, with regard to the beauty of the proſpects, the want of rills and ſtreams is a very great defect, not to be compenſated either by large pieces of ſtanding-water, or by the neighbourhood of the ſea; though that, by reaſon of the ſmallneſs of the iſland, generally makes a part of a very extenſive view.

As to the reſidence upon the iſland, the principal inconvenience attending it is the vaſt number of muſcatos, and various other ſpecies of flies, together with an inſect called a trick, which, though principally attached to the cattle, would yet frequently faſten upon our limbs and bodies, and, if not perceived and removed in time, would bury its head under the ſkin and raiſe a painful inflammation. We found here too centipedes and ſcorpions, which we ſuppoſed were venomous, but none of us ever received any injury from them.

But the moſt important and formidable exception to this place remains ſtill to be told. This is, the inconvenience of the road, and the little ſecurity there is, at ſome ſeaſons, for a ſhip at anchor. The only proper anchoring-place for ſhips of burthen is at the ſouth-weſt end of the iſland.

In this place the Centurion anchored in twenty and twenty-two fathom water, oppoſite to a ſandy bay, and about a mile and an half diſtant from the ſhore. The bottom of this road is full of ſharp-pointed coral rocks, which, during four months of the year, that is, from the middle of June to the middle of October, renders it a very unſafe place to lie at. This is the ſeaſon of the weſtern monſoons, when, near the full and change of the moon, but more particularly at the change, the wind is uſually variable all round the compaſs, and ſeldom fails to blow with ſuch fury, that the ſtouteſt cables are not to be confided in; and, what adds to the danger at theſe times, is, the exceſſive rapidity of the tide of flood, which ſets to the ſouth-eaſt, between this iſland and that of Aguiguan, a ſmall iſland near the ſouthern extremity of Tinian.

This tide runs, at firſt, with a vaſt head and overfall of water, and occaſions ſuch a hollow and over-grown ſea, as is ſcarcely to be conceived; ſo that we were under the dreadful apprehenſion of being pooped by it, though we were in a ſixty gun ſhip.

In the remaining eight months of the year, that is, from the middle of October to the middle of June, there is a conſtant ſeaſon of ſettled weather when, if the cables are but well armed, there is ſcarcely any danger of their being ſo much as rubbed; ſo that, during all that interval, it is as ſecure a road as could be wiſhed for.

I ſhall

I ſhall only add, that the anchoring-bank is very ſhelving, and ſtretches along the ſouth-weſt end of the iſland: and, that it is entirely free from ſhoals, except a reef of rocks which is viſible, and lies about half a mile from the ſhore, and affords a narrow paſſage into a ſmall ſandy bay, which is the only place where boats can poſſibly land.

After thus long detaining our reader with this agreeable digreſſion, we will return with him to our ſubject.

But here the commodore, and moſt of his people, were in great danger of being left for ever, or of being impriſoned or maſſacred by the neighbouring Spaniards; the Centurion being driven from her anchors, one night, in a violent ſtorm, and, after nineteen days abſence, being brought back with difficulty, by the few hands that were left on board.

Mr. Anſon arrived at Macao, in China, in 1742, where having completely refitted his ſhip (as was generally ſuppoſed, for an European voyage), he ſteered back as far as the Philippin iſlands, with a view of meeting the Acapulco ſhip; a plan as wiſely laid as it was wiſely conducted. After much beating about and uncertainty, he at length got ſight of the ſhip of which he had been in ſearch, and ſoon after came up with and took her. This crowned his voyage, and greatly enriched

himſelf and his crew. With a handful of men and boys (of which two only were killed) he made this vaſt acquiſition, and took three times his own number of priſoners.

He returned with his prize to China, where he obtained, with eaſe, at an audience of the viceroy of Canton, an exemption from the emperor's uſual duties, thus ſupporting the honour of his majeſty's flag in thoſe far diſtant regions.

On his arrival in England (by the Cape of Good Hope) after near four years abſence, in June 1744, he found that the hand of Providence ſeemed ſtill to protect him, having ſailed, in a fog, through the midſt of a French fleet, then cruiſing in the Channel. In ſhort, through the whole of this remarkable voyage, he experienced the truth of that ſaying of Teucer, which he afterwards choſe for his motto, "Nil eſt deſperandum."

Soon after his return he was appointed rear admiral of the Blue, and one of the lords of the admiralty. In April 1745 he was made rear admiral of the white; and, in July, 1746, vice admiral of the Blue. He was alſo choſen member of parliament for Heydon in Yorkſhire. That winter he commanded the Channel ſquadron, and had not duke d'Anville's fleet, returning with diſgrace from North America, been accidentally apprized of his ſtation, his long and tempeſtuous cruize would then have been attended with his uſual ſucceſs. However, in the enſuing ſummer, he

was

was once more crowned with wealth and conqueſt. Being then on board the Prince George, of ninety guns, in company with admiral Warren, and twelve ſhips more, he intercepted, off Cape Finiſterre, on the third of May, 1747, a powerful fleet, bound from France to the Eaſt and Weſt Indies; and, by his valour and conduct, again inriched himſelf and officers, and ſtrengthened the Britiſh navy, by taking ſix men of war, and four Eaſt indiamen, not one of that fleet eſcaping. The ſpeech of the French admiral, M. Jonquiere, on preſenting his ſword to the conqueror, deſerves to be recorded: "Monſieur, vous avez vaincu l'Invincible, et la Gloire vous ſuit," pointing to the two ſhips ſo named.

For theſe repeated ſervices, the late king rewarded him with a peerage, on the thirteenth of June, by the title of lord Anſon, baron of Soberton in Hants. On the fifteenth of July, in the ſame year, he was appointed vice admiral of the red; and, on the death of ſir John Norris, he was made vice admiral of England.

In April, 1748, his lordſhip married the honourable Miſs Yorke (eldeſt daughter of the preſent earl of Hardwicke, then lord high chancellor) who died in 1760, without iſſue.

In May, 1748, he was appointed admiral of the Blue; in which year he commanded the ſquadron that convoyed the late king to and from Holland, and ever after conſtantly

attended

attended his majeſty on his going abroad, and on his return to England.

In June, 1751, his lordſhip was appointed firſt lord of the admiralty, in which poſt he continued (with a very ſhort intermiſſion) till his death.

In 1752 he was appointed one of the lords juſtices, as he alſo was in 1754. That year, on the rupture with France, ſo active and ſpirited were his meaſures, that a fleet, ſuperior to the enemy, was equipped and manned with amazing expedition.

In 1758, being then admiral of the White, having hoiſted his flag on board the Royal George, of one hundred guns, he ſailed from Spithead on the firſt of June, with a formidable fleet, ſir Edward Hawke commanding under him, and, by cruizing continually before Breſt, he covered the deſcents that were made that ſummer at St. Maloes, Cherbourg, &c. After this, he was appointed admiral and commander in chief of his majeſty's fleets.

The laſt ſervice his lordſhip performed at ſea was the convoying to England our preſent queen; for which purpoſe he ſailed from Harwich in the Charlotte yatcht, on the ſeventh of Auguſt, 1761; and that day month, after a long and tempeſtuous voyage, landed the princeſs at the ſame place.

At length, having been ſome time in a languiſhing ſtate of health, he was adviſed to the Bath waters, from which he was thought to

have received benefit; but, ſoon after his return, being ſeized ſuddenly, juſt after walking in his garden, he died at his ſeat at Moor-Park, in Hertfordſhire, on the ſixth of June, 1762.

By his lordſhip's will, great part of his fortune devolved to his ſiſter's ſon, George Adams, eſq. member for Saltaſh, in Cornwall.

His elder brother, Thomas Anſon, eſq. is member in the preſent parliament for Litchfield.

Among the many ſervices that will immortalize the name of Anſon, his diſcreet and fortunate choice of officers is none of the leaſt, as will be allowed by all who remember that the late captain Saumarez, (who was killed in 1747, being then captain of the Nottingham) and the preſent Sir Charles Saunders, Sir Piercy Brett, commodore Keppel, captain Dennis, &c. were his lieutenants in the Centurion.

THE

THE LIFE OF

GEORGE BERKELY.

GEORGE BERKELY was the ſon of a clergyman in Ireland, of a ſmall living, but at the ſame time remarkable for his learning and piety, he therefore gave his ſon the beſt education his circumſtances would admit of; the languages, ancient and modern, he taught him himſelf, at home; and, when fitted for the univerſity, taxed his little fortune, in order to ſend him to Trinity college, Dublin.

Here he ſoon began to be looked upon, as the greateſt genius, or the greateſt dunce, in the whole univerſity; thoſe who were but ſlightly acquainted with him, took him for a fool; but thoſe who ſhared his moſt intimate friendſhip, looked upon him as a prodigy of learning and good-nature. Whenever he appeared abroad from his ſtudies, which was but ſeldom, he was ſurrounded by a crowd of the idle or the facetious, who followed him, not to be improved, but to laugh. Of this he frequently complained, but there was no redreſs; the more he fretted, he became only the more ridiculous.

An

Aveline sculp.

Berkley Br. of Cloyne

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An action of his, however, ſoon made him more truly ridiculous than before; curioſity leading him one day, in the crowd, to go to ſee an execution, he returned home penſive and melancholy, and could not forbear reflecting on what he had ſeen. He deſired to know what were the pains and ſymptoms a malefactor felt upon ſuch an occaſion, and communicated to his chum the cauſe of his ſtrange curioſity; in ſhort, he reſolved to tuck himſelf up for a trial, at the ſame time deſiring his companion to take him down at a ſignal agreed upon.

The companion (whoſe name was Contarine) was to try the ſame experiment himſelf immediately after. Berkely was, accordingly, tied up to the cieling, and the chair taken from under his feet; but ſoon loſing the uſe of his ſenſes, his companion, it ſeems, waited a little too long for the ſignal agreed upon, and our enquirer had like to have been hanged in good earneſt; for as ſoon as he was taken down, he fell, ſenſeleſs and motionleſs, upon the floor. After ſome trouble, however, he was brought to himſelf; and obſerving his band, "Bleſs my heart, Contarine," ſays he, "you have quite rumpled my band." When it came to Contarine's turn to go up, he quickly evaded the propoſal; the other's danger had quite abated his curioſity.

Still, however, Berkely proceeded in his ſtudies with unabated ardour; a fellowſhip in

that

that college is attained by ſuperior learning only; the candidates are examined in the moſt public manner, in an amphitheatre erected for that purpoſe, and great numbers of the nobility and gentry of the city are preſent upon the occaſion. This examination he paſſed with the utmoſt applauſe, and was made a fellow, the only reward of learning that kingdom has to beſtow.

Metaphyſical ſtudies are generally the amuſement of the indolent and the inquiſitive; his buſineſs, as a fellow, allowed him ſufficient leiſure, and his genius prompted him to ſcrutinize into every abſtruſe ſubject. He ſoon, therefore, was regarded as one of the beſt metaphyſicians in Europe, his logic was looked upon rather as the work of a man ſkilled in metaphyſics, than in the dialectic of the ſchools; his treatiſe upon matter was alſo thought to be the moſt ingenious paradox that ever amuſed learned leiſure, and many were the anſwers it procured amongſt all the literati of Europe.

In this he denies the non exiſtence of matter, both from our being incapable of having any idea of the ſubſtratum of ſenſible qualities, which are every moment preſented to our ſenſes, or our imaginations, and from the contradictions that the allowing of matter will produce in our reaſonings upon the Deity. We can't omit a jeſt upon this occaſion; walking one day in one of the ſquares, and intent upon ſomething elſe, he ran his noſe againſt a poſt,

poſt, which ſtunned him for ſome time; "Never mind it, doctor," ſays a ſophiſter who was by, "there's no Matter in it.

His fame as a ſcholar, but more his converſation as a man of wit and good-nature, ſoon procured him the friendſhip and eſteem of every perſon of fortune and underſtanding; among the reſt, Swift, that lover yet derider of human nature, became one of the moſt intimate, and it was by his recommendation that he was introduced to the earl of Peterborough, who made him his chaplain, and took him as his companion in a tour which he made thro' Europe.

The earl of Peterborough's character is well known; he was as much an hero as ever exiſted in romance; though ſhort of ſtature, he was ever the moſt vigorous both in the field and in the council, and ſpent his fortune, which was conſiderable, in ſchemes for the honour of his own country, and to relieve the diſtreſs of others. With ſuch a companion Berkely found every happineſs; he was inſtructed by his experience, and refined by his converſation; and the man who before had ſpent the greateſt part of his life with books, now was taught to be the fine gentleman, and diſcovered an exquiſite natural taſte, as well as an immenſe degree of erudition.

His letter to Mr. Pope, from Italy, is fine and poetical, and ſhews that the writer's imagination was as luxuriant as his ſagacity was quick and piercing.

Some

Some time after his return he was promoted to a deanery, in which ſituation he wrote his Minute Philoſopher, one of the moſt elegant and genteel defences of that religion which he was born to vindicate, both by his virtues and his ingenuity. It was at this time, alſo, that he attempted to eſtabliſh an univerſity for our American colonies, in Bermudas, one of the Summer Iſlands. Doctor Depuſch, an excellent muſician, and ſome others of great abilities, were engaged in this deſign, and actually embarked in order to put it in execution; but the ſhip being caſt away, the deſign unhappily was diſcontinued, and Berkely left to contrive ſomething elſe to the advantage of his country.

He was alſo deeply intereſted in a ſcheme for promoting the Engliſh language, by a ſociety of wits and men of genius, eſtabliſhed for that purpoſe, in imitation of the academies of France; in this deſign Swift, Bolingbroke, and others, were united; but the whole dropt by the death of queen Anne, and the diſcontinuance of Harley from being prime miniſter.

His friendſhips and connexions, however, did not, as was the caſe with Swift and ſome others, prevent his promotion; he was made biſhop of Cloyne, and ſure none ever had juſter pretenſions to the mitre than he. No man was more aſſiduous or punctual in his duty, none exacted it more ſtrictly from his inferior

inferror clergy, yet no biſhop was ever more beloved by them. He ſpent his time with the utmoſt chearfulneſs, innocence, and humanity; the meaneſt peaſant within ten miles of his ſeat was familiar with him; thoſe of them that wanted, ſhared his bounty, and thoſe that did not, had his friendſhip and advice. The country, which was deſolate and unimproved, he took the utmoſt pains to improve, and attempted to ſet an example of the proper methods of agriculture to the farmer, as he had before of piety and benevolence to the whole kingdom.

Metaphyſical ſtudies were his amuſement, and the diſpenſations of charity he looked upon as his duty. He now examined a treatiſe he had long before written, entitled, "De motui ſive motus principio et natura, et de cauſa communicationis motuum. In this he found much to be reprehended, and much to be added, and freely told his friends his opinion. In this, however, he ſhews the obſcurities, and even the abſurdities, into which all abſtract writers upon this ſubject had involved themſelves; that gravity, attraction, &c. are nothing but occult qualities, which, abſtracted from their ſuppoſed effects, can neither be explained nor underſtood; nay, that ſir Iſaac Newton himſelf does not ſet up attraction as a quality truly and phyſically inherent in matter, but only as a mathematical hypotheſis.

Such

Such were his opinions to the laſt; but the opinions of metaphyſicians he, at laſt, began to contemn, and to doubt of the certainty, not only of every argument upon this ſubject, but even of the ſcience. He therefore turned his thoughts to more beneficial ſtudies, to politics and medicine, and gave inſtances in both of what he could have done, had he made either his particular ſtudy.

In politics, a pamphlet publiſhed by him, entitled, The Queriſt, is a fine inſtance of his ſkill, and was attended with ſome beneficial circumſtances to his native country. We ſhall preſent the reader with a ſpecimen of his abilities, by a ſhort extract from it; as every thing wrote by him deſerves the public notice.

Whether it may not concern the wiſdom of the legiſlature, to interpoſe in the making of faſhions; and not leave an affair of ſo great influence to the management of women and fops, vintners and taylors?

Whether reaſonable faſhions are a greater reſtraint on freedom, than thoſe which are unreaſonable?

Whether a general good taſte in a people would not greatly conduce to their thriving? and whether an uneducated gentry are not the greateſt of national evils?

Whether cuſtoms and faſhions do not ſupply the place of reaſon in the vulgar of all ranks? Whether, therefore, it doth not very much

much import, that they ſhould be wiſely framed?

Whether it would not be an unhappy turn in our gentlemen, if they ſhould take more thought to create an intereſt to themſelves in this or that county or borough, than to promote the real intereſt of their country?

Whether ſome way might not be found for making criminals uſeful in public works, inſtead of ſending them either to America, or the other world?

Whether, as our exports are leſſened, we ought not to leſſen our imports? And whether theſe will not be leſſened as our demands, and theſe as our wants, and theſe as our cuſtoms or faſhions? Of how great conſequence are our faſhions, therefore, to the public?

Whether a woman of Faſhion ought not, therefore, to be declared a public enemy?

Whether our peers and gentlemen are born legiſlators? or, Whether that faculty be acquired by ſtudy and reflection?

Whether a wiſe ſtate hath any intereſt nearer at heart than the education of youth?

Whether the gentleman of eſtate hath a right to be idle? and, Whether he ought not to be the great promoter and director of induſtry, among his neighbours?

Whether, if women had no portions, we ſhould then ſee ſo many unhappy and unfruitful marriages?

Whether the credit of the public funds be not a mine of gold to England? and, Whether any

any ſtep that ſhould leſſen this credit, ought not to be dreaded?

Whether it would not be better for this iſland, if all the fine folk of both ſexes were ſhipped off to remain in foreign countries, rather than that they ſhould ſpend their eſtates at home in foreign luxury, and ſpread the contagion thereof through their native land?

What right an eldeſt ſon hath to the worſt education?

What folly it is to build fine houſes, or eſtabliſh lucrative poſts and large incomes, under the notion of providing for the poor?

Whether he who is chained in a gaol or dungeon, hath not, for the time, loſt his liberty; and, if ſo, whether temporal ſlavery be not already admitted among us?

Whether fools do not make faſhions, and wiſe men follow them?

Whether it would not be an horrible thing to ſee our matrons make dreſs and play their chief concern?

Whether faculties are not enlarged and improved by exerciſe?

Theſe queries made a vaſt noiſe in the kingdom which gave them birth, and for which they were deſigned. They were read, approved for the moſt part, and forgotten. He ſtill, however, retained his love of mankind, and ſtudied every method to make them better, or more happy.

His

His treatiſe on Tar-water rendered him more popular than any of his preceding productions, at the ſame time that it was the moſt whimſical of them all. Here he pretends to prove, a priori, the effects of this, ſometimes, valuable medicine; but then he extends them to every, and even oppoſite, diſorders; as, to uſe his own ſimilitude, warm water will at once make hot water more cold, and cold water more warm. However, this treatiſe introduced a new faſhion into the medicinal regimen, and almoſt every creature began to drink tar-water, until time had diſcovered its inefficacy.

The public were long undeceived, before his lordſhip, who was the inventor, could be ſo. He had built an hoſpital, at his own expence, near his gate, and to it all the poor were welcome; he attended them himſelf as phyſician, doſed them with tar-water, of the virtues of which he was entirely confident; and took as much pains with the pooreſt creature in his hoſpital, as the very nurſe whom he had placed as an attendant.

His intention in this particular cannot be ſufficiently applauded, though, perhaps, the ſucceſs might not have anſwered his expectations. Perhaps he carried his veneration for tar-water to an exceſs; he drank it in abundance himſelf, and attempted to mend the conſtitutions of his children by the ſame re-

gimen: this, however, he could never effect; and perhaps his deſire of improving their health, and their underſtanding, at which he laboured moſt aſſiduouſly, might have impaired both. But his faults, if we know of any, all proceeded from motives of humanity, benevolence, and good-nature.

He preſerved the cloſeſt intimacy with the gentlemen of the neighbourhood; and, while he cultivated the duties of his ſtation, he was not unmindful of the innocent amuſements of life: muſic he was particularly fond of, and always kept one or two exquiſite performers to amuſe his hours of leiſure.

His income he was entirely contented with, and, when once offered a biſhopric much more beneficial than that he poſſeſſed, he declined it, with theſe words, "I love the neighbours, and they love me; why, then, ſhould I begin, in my old days, to form new connections, and tear myſelf from thoſe friends, whoſe kindneſs to me is the greateſt happineſs I enjoy."

Finding his health and conſtitution impaired beyond the power of medicine, or his own tar-water, to reſtore, he removed to Oxford; an univerſity he always loved, and at which he received a great part of his education.

After a ſhort paſſage, and a very pleaſant journey, he arrived at this famous ſeat of learning; here he was viſited by many of his former

former friends and admirers; but the certainty there was of ſpeedily loſing him, greatly damped the pleaſure they would otherwiſe have had in his company. In a ſhort time after his arrival he expired, greatly regretted, by the poor, whom he loved; and the learned, whom he had improved.

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Extract

B M

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